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Entertainment

Cyrus talks about new album
pg 31

Group protests zoo's Hindu statue

RELIGION The Concerned Christians Canada sent a letter to the Calgary Zoo protesting the placement of what they call a Hindu "god," statue in front of the zoo's Elephant Crossing Exhibit.

The letter, from Jim Blake, national chairman of the CCC, states the statue is of the Hindu God Ganesh and said "The display of foreign gods is offensive and does not reflect the views of the majority of Canadians."

Protest picture

Laurie Herron of the Calgary Zoo told CBC.ca that all religious symbolism on the statue was removed before display — and that the zoo board of directors had not yet seen Blake's letter.

METRO CALGARY

News on the Move

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Movies pg 22

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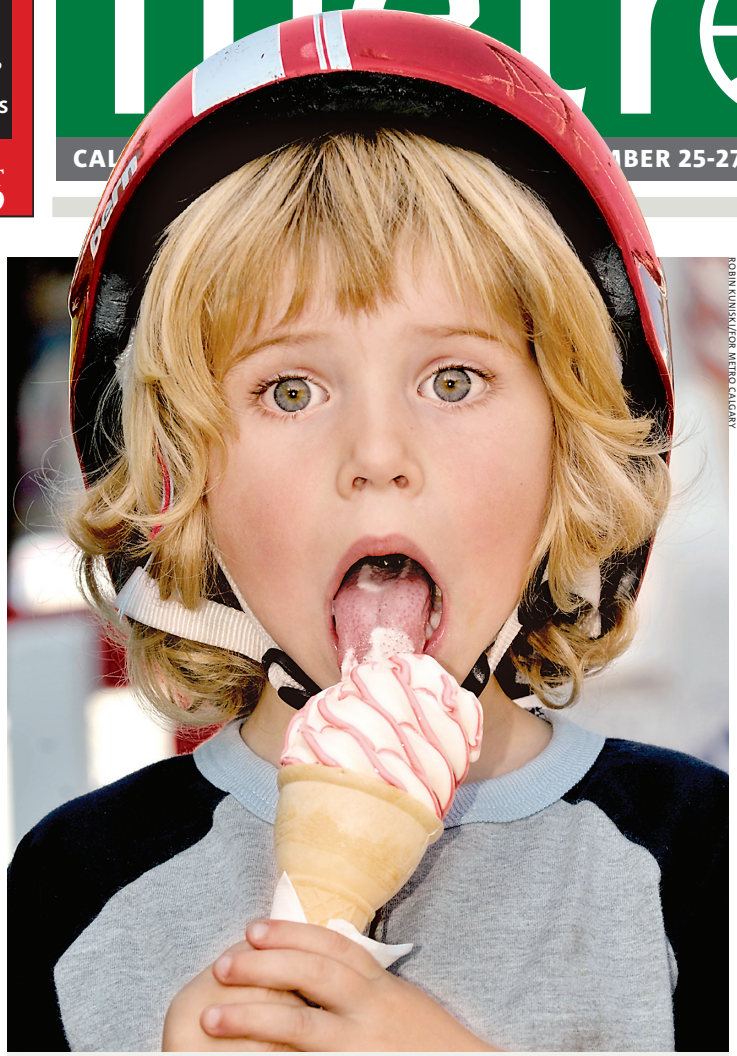

ROBIN KUNSKI/FOR METRO CALGARY

End of summer **Warm weather stays around**

Rudy Gillespie, 3, enjoys the last days of summer by taking in some ice cream at Eau Claire Market after a long bike ride with his mom and sister. Unseasonably warm temperatures will stick around for a couple of days before dropping to the low to mid-teens for next week.

Enmax CEO blasts power plan

Transmission lines would be built with no oversight: Holden

SHAWN LOGAN
for Metro Calgary

Enmax CEO Gary Holden Thursday lashed out at provincial plans to push through a controversial power transmission scheme that would bypass any oversight.

But one Calgary alderman criticized the move, noting the city-owned utility shouldn't be leading a public relations campaign against the province using what amounts to taxpayer dollars.

"It's like playing a sport without a referee."
Gary Holden, Enmax

At an elaborate campaign launch aimed at scuttling Bill 50, which, if passed, will allow a series of multibillion-dollar transmission lines to be built with only ministerial approval, Holden said customers will bear the costs to ensure a handful of large companies profit.

"It's like playing a sport without a referee — this is a downward spiral and we've got to stop it," Holden said.

"When you ask for $8 billion and the same time, say 'Oh, and by the way, we don't want anyone to check our numbers,' you've got to be very suspicious."

The province wants to allow some of Alberta's energy giants to move forward on six major transmission corridors without a public hearing or regulatory approval, a move Holden said could cost as much as $20 billion and make energy bills soar.

Holden said Enmax wants to ensure any talk of provincewide transmission lines includes public hearings and a third-party regulator to sign off on any plans.

The broadside, however, wasn't well received by Ald. Ric McIver, who said the publicly owned utility shouldn't be leading any political sorties, which may ultimately have repercussions for Calgary.

"There's no question that this is a PR campaign that is being conducted by a company that is only barely arm's length from city council," said McIver, noting council members sit on its board of directors.

"If you go on the attack, you shouldn't be surprised if you get hit back."

Enmax is encouraging people to sign an online petition on its website to kill Bill 50.

Cops seek sex assault suspect

SHAWN LOGAN
for Metro Calgary

CRIME Cops are turning to the public in hopes of tracking down a man who allegedly sexually assaulted a young woman in July.

Police released a composite drawing of a man they believe assaulted an 18-year-old woman on Saddleridge Drive NE on July 14, after following her and engaging in small talk before the attack.

Suspect

Det. Guy Baker of the sex crimes unit said the attacker was very aggressive and the attack is believed to be random.

"The victim used extreme courage coming forward to be able to tell us the events that took place," he said, noting the attacker is not believed to be involved in any other known assaults.

The attacker is described as an East Indian man, 18 to 21 years old, five-foot-eight to five-foot-11, 135 to 140 pounds with a slim build.

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Local

Stampede pageant trots in this weekend

The 2010 Calgary Stampede Indian Princess Pageant will be held this Sunday at the Carriage House Inn on Macleod Trail from 2 to 4 p.m., with individuals from the five tribes of the Treaty 7 nations participating. The chosen contestant will be a goodwill ambassador of the Calgary Stampede and the Indian Village, making over 200 appearances throughout the year of her reign.

METRO CALGARY

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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR
2009 Festival of Media Awards

News in brief

FUNDING The Centre for Newcomers in northeast Calgary will receive nearly $1.4 million for its Youth Possibilities Program, which will help 140 youth facing employment barriers.

CADETS The Calgary Fire Department is accepting applications for its youth Fire Cadet Program. Applicants must be 15 to 18, enrolled in high school in Calgary or surrounding area, must commit to an 18-month program and willing to learn. Applications are available at calgary.ca/firecadets. METRO CALGARY

Calgary tweets

• @codytorgerson Absolutely loves The District, a new local/organic gastro pub in Calgary, just beside the Amsterdam Rhino! Worth checking out! #yyc

• @jbristowe I think Theo Fleury will make the #Flames roster. I can't believe that I'm typing this.

• Find out what we're up to! Follow Metro Alberta publisher @steveshrout or Metro Calgary managing editor @Darren_Krause

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Students protest hiring freeze

CARMEN WALL
for Metro Canada

Many nursing students fear they'll be jobless after graduation, despite what they say is a nursing shortage in Alberta.

A group of University of Alberta nursing students met at the legislature Thursday to protest against Alberta Health Service's freeze on hiring registered nurses.

Most of the protesters were fourth-year registered nursing students who say right now their best job prospects are in neighbouring Saskatchewan.

They say the quality of health care in Alberta will "continue to decline" as a result. The students said the province poured money into education to meet an "overwhelming demand" for nurses, then over the summer AHS declared the shortage "resolved."

They said AHS has adopted a strategy of restricted hiring and replacing RNs with "less-educated" licensed practical nurses to cut costs.

Jennifer Hinz, a fourth-year student, said research articles have linked RNs to fewer health complications, shorter hospital stays and fewer re-admissions — which reduces costs in the long run.

According to the students' recent poll of 230 nursing students, 80 per cent said they would leave the province to find a job.

"Alberta is about to lose an entire graduating class, compounding an existing nursing shortage," said student Quinn Grundy, who will graduate in December.

The students say they're speaking out partly because nurses themselves are being muzzled by a code of conduct imposed by Alberta's health-care superboard. WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

CODIE MCLACHLAN/FOR METRO CANADA

Jennifer Hinz, a fourth-year nursing student at the University of Alberta, speaks to protesters on the steps of the Alberta legislature on Thursday.

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Schools preparing for fundraising drop-off

SHAWN LOGAN
for Metro Calgary

MONEY Calgary's public schools are expecting a major drop in vending machine sales after trimming options to reflect healthier choices.

But Calgary Board of Education spokesman Ted Flitton said while administrators are preparing for some revenue loss, other options are being looked at to limit the damage to fundraising.

"We know there is going to be a significant dip in sales of some of these foods but we're looking at different ways of fundraising," he said.

As part of the school board's goal to have students eating healthy 80 per cent of the time, vending machines this year now predominantly feature snacks such as granola bars, baked chips and milk with only a small ratio of chocolate bars and pop.

Flitton said by making the junk food options more expensive students will turn to cheaper, nutritional options. The bulk of vending machine sales are retained at the school level and mainly the revenue goes to to fund sports teams. Flitton said while there may be a short-term fundraising gap, pushing a healthy lifestyle is important.

Police warn of rise in night thefts

CRIME An increase in daring nighttime house break and enters in the northwest has the Calgary police service reminding Calgarians to take preventative measures.

Ten break and enters have been reported in the northwest communities of Varsity, Edgemont and Arbour Lake between Aug. 28 and Sept. 24. Police say the invasions are particularly concerning because they were perpetrated while the homeowners were sleeping at the time.

Purses, wallets, cash and small electronics were taken — and police believe these were crimes of opportunity with the suspects believed to have entered through unlocked doors and windows.

Police are reminding Calgarians to ensure that all windows and doors in homes are secured and that yards and exteriors are adequately lit. Anyone with information on the break-ins is asked to call police at 403-567-6700.

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Health care protest set for Fort Saskatchewan
Friends of Medicare is planning a protest to take place Friday at noon at Premier Ed Stelmach's Fort Saskatchewan constituency office. METRO CALGARY

ROBIN KUNISKI/FOR METRO CALGARY

Carmen Bellemare works on harvesting vegetables from the Garden Path Society, part of the Public Community Food Gardens, readying them for distribution to organizations in need.

Feeding those in need

Urban garden's harvest to go to food bank

MEREDITH O'HARA
for Metro Calgary

As the seasons officially change to fall this week farmers begin to plan for their harvests, and this year that includes a group of urban Calgarians.

Volunteers with the Urban Community Garden pilot project will harvest the final produce from their vegetable gardens on Third Street next week.

All summer the gardens have grown in the difficult environment of downtown Calgary and finally the last of the food will be harvested and donated to local community groups.

"We're extremely pleased, not only with the yield … as far as the response from the neighbours, the businesses in the area was overwhelming," said Paul Hughes, chair of the Calgary Food Policy Council.

"We're looking forward to the summer of 2010."

Hughes said there were only small issues of people throwing cigarette butts into the planters and a couple people taking food but he said "the benefits far outstripped any negative aspects."

Over the summer volunteers were able to harvest about 200 grocery bags of greens, which were donated mostly to the drop-in centre. The produce from next Wednesday's harvest will go to the Calgary Inter-Faith Food Bank.

"Any time that we receive fresh produce, it's such an asset to add that to our emergency food hampers, because the fresher it is … the more nutritious it is for our clients," said Heidi Lambie, spokesperson for the food bank.

Hughes said they hope to expand the program next year.

Body donors honoured at service

MEMORIAL A graveside service at Queen's Park Cemetery Thursday recognized those who gave their bodies to science.

Every two years the University of Calgary's faculty of medicine honours the donation made for the learning of others through the Body Donation Program. This year, they remembered 71 people at the graveside service.

"The Body Donation Program allows students to familiarize themselves with the anatomical relationships found in the human body that are essential for understanding the progression and treatment of disease," said the program's director, Dr. John Bertram.

For Alison Wadsworth, whose father Doug Farrell was donated to the program after dying at 68 years old due to chronic health conditions, said it was an opportunity to give back.

"Donating his body was a gift that will contribute to the advancement of medical research and help others," she said.

The Body Donation Program supports three specific areas: Continuing education for physicians and surgeons, research done at the faculty of medicine, and training of medical students. METRO CALGARY

News in brief

ZOO The Calgary Zoo's newest red panda cub will be unveiled to the public today — and after 2,000 online votes cast, the female cub will also be adorned with a name.

H1N1 A Preparing Your Organization for Pandemic seminar will be offered for the first time through the University of Calgary continuing education, on Oct. 19 and 20. The seminar is intended for companies or departments putting together a pandemic plan for their organization. For more information, call 403-220-2988.

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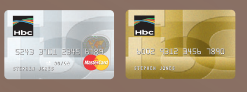

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Canada concludes reactor negotiations: Day

Kazakhstan — home to the former Soviet Union's main nuclear test site — could soon be buying nuclear reactors from Canada. Trade Minister Stockwell Day says Canadian officials have concluded negotiations with the country on a Nuclear Co-operation Agreement. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Feds want answers on info transfer

The federal government has asked Canada's privacy commissioner to look into whether the RCMP should have passed on personal information from the national gun registry to a pollster. Public Safety Minister Peter Van Loan, left, called the RCMP's release of information to the EKOS polling firm "offensive and inappropriate" and said it would not have been approved if the ministry had been consulted, said ministry spokesperson Chris McCluskey. THE CANADIAN PRESS

2010 Games adopting social media

TECHNOLOGY Social media lets people eavesdrop on the conversations between celebrities or be eyewitnesses to revolutions around the world. It's also bringing down the walls around another secret garden: The Olympics.

Technologies that allow regular citizens to connect to the Games are slowly being adopted by international and local Olympic organizers.

It's a major step forward for the movement, which has often been criticized for a top-down approach to communication — the IOC once spoke and expected people to listen.

But the explosion of blogs, Facebook and message boards is beginning to force them to listen a little more themselves.

"Clearly if you want to talk to people you have to use the channels that are available," said Mark Adams, the director of communications for the IOC.

"We can't ignore them. They are there and people are going to talk with you or about you, you might as well talk with them."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

PM arrives at G20 summit

TALKS Prime Minister Stephen Harper has arrived at the G20 summit in Pittsburgh for crucial talks on the economy and climate change.

The G20 leaders are meeting for the third time in less than a year, mainly in the hopes of resolving the global financial crisis.

They hope to reach an agreement on how best to slowly remove huge stimulus packages that have underpinned the fragile economic recovery.

Climate change has also thrust its way to centre stage in the wake of ground-shifting talks at the United Nations in New York. New climate-change commitments this week from China and Japan have ratcheted up pressure on Harper and other leaders to put money and measures on the table. Harper arrived in Pittsburgh after meetings with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ottawa **Trump takes questions**

PAWEL DWULIT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Donald Trump points to a member of the media who has a question during a media scrum at the Eastern Ontario Economic Showcase in Ottawa on Thursday. Trump is a key speaker at the forum.

Libyan leader to get an earful

VISIT The Harper government says Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi should expect an earful when he arrives in Canada next week for a brief stopover.

Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon has been dispatched to meet the African strongman and express Canada's displeasure over the "hero's welcome'' Libya gave to the man convicted of the infamous Lockerbie bombing.

But it's not clear if Gadhafi will agree to the meeting during a stop in St. John's, Nfld., on his way home from the United Nations.

Gadhafi is a former international pariah who rehabilitated his image by publicly abandoning support for terrorism.

He drew international rebuke again last month for throwing a party for Abdel Baset al-Megrahi, who was released from a Scottish prison on compassionate grounds. The national fete for a convicted terrorist outraged many, especially the relatives of victims killed in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Critics blast prison policy

Report says feds are pandering

Decades of evidence on prison policy is being trumped by ideology and populist pandering, says an independent report on the Conservative government's corrections road map.

"Raw wedge politics — in place of studied evidence — is the new face of public policy for Canada," Graham Stewart, one of the study's co-authors, said at a news conference Thursday.

Stewart and Michael Jackson, a law professor at the University of British Columbia, have written a 235-page deconstruction of the Harper government's 2007 blueprint for revamping Canadian corrections policies.

Their scathing analysis contends that the government road map starts with what they call an ideological "myth" — that human rights are at odds with public safety.

"What that's doing is polarizing a discussion about corrections in a really unfortunate way," said Stewart.

"It creates the notion that the decent treatment of prisoners is somehow putting the public at risk, when in fact it's the complete reverse. ...

"We don't believe that abuse improves people."

Sloganeering

- It was exactly the kind of simple sloganeering that Stewart and Jackson's report repeatedly attacks as unfounded, based on "reams of research" in Canada, the United States and abroad.

Their analysis was immediately dismissed by Public Safety Minister Peter Van Loan, who made a point of referring repeatedly to Jackson as "the professor."

"The professor has a different philosophy than us," Van Loan told CBC Newsworld. "We think the protection of society has to come first."

Over the last three decades the per capita rate of U.S. prison incarceration has skyrocketed compared with Canada, they noted, yet the two countries' crime rates have risen and fallen together.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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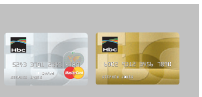

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'He's a free man'

Court ends terror suspect's six-year ordeal

The federal government's case against a man it claims has terrorism ties unravelled in court on Thursday.

A Federal Court judge in Montreal dismissed the stringent court-ordered conditions he still faced.

Adil Charkaoui effectively became a free man after Justice Daniele Tremblay-Lamer's decision to quash the security certificate that has shadowed his every move for six years.

The certificates are rarely used immigration provisions for expelling foreign-born individuals considered a security risk to Canada.

"I was waiting for this day since 2003," Charkaoui said outside the courthouse after Tremblay-Lamer's ruling.

"Six years of deprivation of freedom, two years in jail …"

Charkaoui, a married father of three, is a landed immigrant from Morocco.

He was arrested in Montreal in 2003 under security-certificate legislation.

His lawyer, Johanne Doyon, hailed Thursday's ruling. "He is a free man with no orders against him," Doyon said.

Doyon added: "He will be like you and me — free."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Adil Charkaoui cuts off his security ankle bracelet as he leaves a Montreal court on Thursday.

"I was waiting for this day since 2003."
Adil Charkaoui

Who's that in the field? It's Iggy, lashing Tories

POLITICS Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff used an empty field in Ontario on Thursday to illustrate why his party can no longer support the Conservative minority government.

Ignatieff stood in front of an undeveloped infrastructure project in Burlington, Ont., to release research that suggests only 12 per cent of $4 billion set aside for job-creating projects has flowed.

"It's one of the important reasons why our party is unable to continue supporting this government," Ignatieff said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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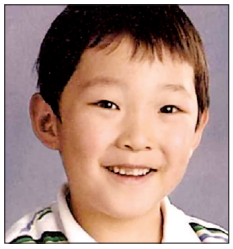
Injured hero says he's leaving the military
Soldier Paul Franklin who lost both his legs in a suicide bombing in Afghanistan says he's leaving the military, partly because he thinks his injuries have stalled his career. He plans to do more charity work and public speaking. THE CANADIAN PRESS

B.C. failed Christian: Report


Stabbing victim Christian Lee.

The stabbing death of a six-year-old boy was a "disturbing" example of the lack of co-ordination of services, says British Columbia's independent children's representative.

In an 88-page report, Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond recounts the violent death of Christian Lee, who was stabbed to death by his father, Peter Lee, in 2007.

Christian's mother, Sunny Lee, and her parents were also slain before Peter Lee turned his knife on himself near Victoria.

Turpel-Lafond says the necessary components to protect children like Christian are still not in place.

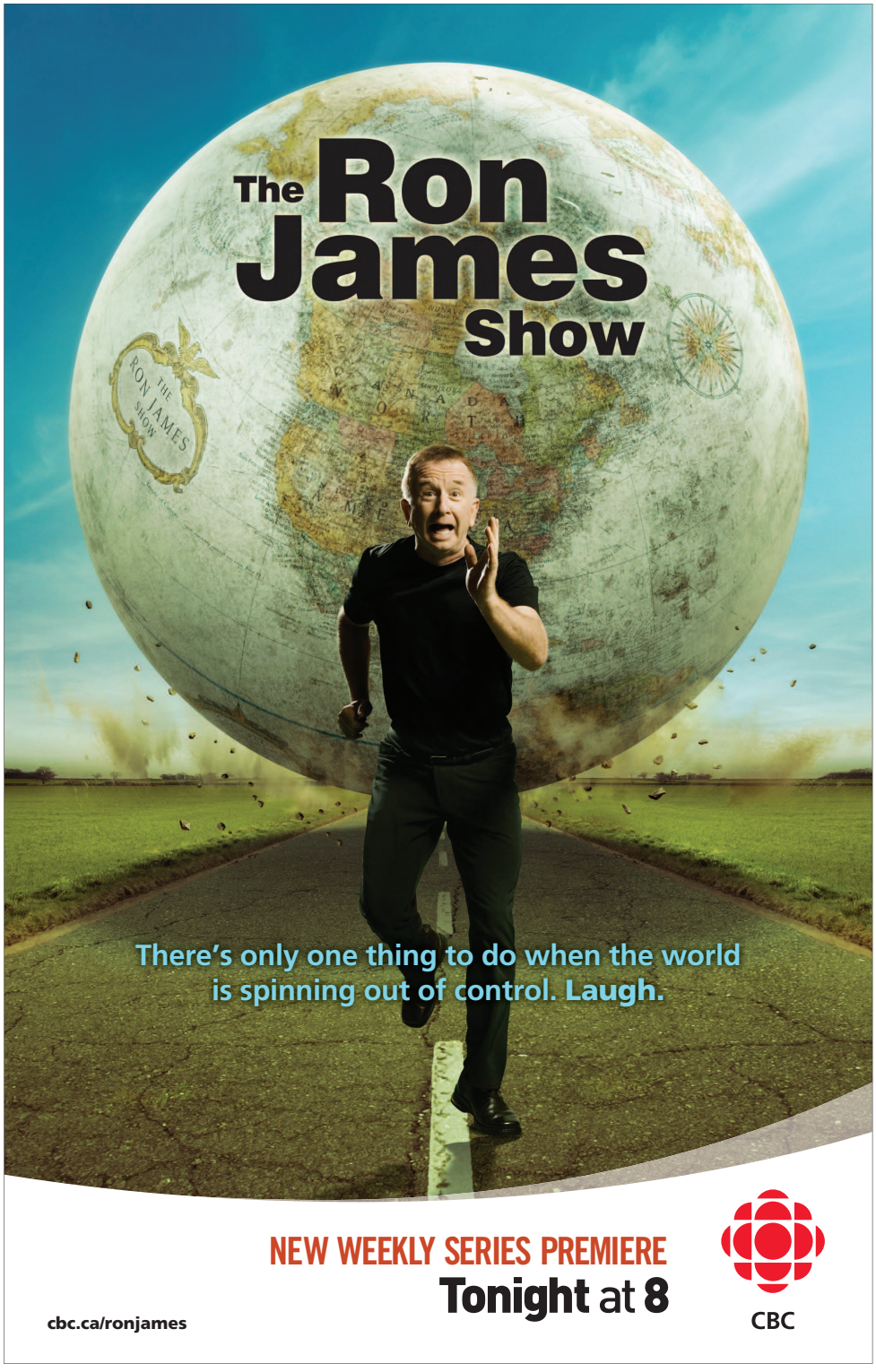
The report found that in the six weeks prior to the deaths of Christian and his family, their lives crossed paths with many service providers — including two municipal police departments, an RCMP detachment, social workers and staff, medical staff, Crown counsel, two therapists and several lawyers.

"As a province, we have to find a better way," Turpel-Lafond said at a press conference.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Giant gas terminal set to pump

GAS Canada's first liquefied natural gas terminal opened Thursday in Saint John, N.B. It will supply natural gas by pipeline to the U.S. THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Trump denies knowing Gadhafi would be renting property
A White Plains, NY, town official says Donald Trump told her he did not know Moammar Gadhafi might be involved when he rented out a section of his estate this week. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Temperature rise inevitable: Report

A United Nations update says Earth's temperature is likely to jump nearly 3 C by 2100 even if every country cuts greenhouse gas emissions as planned. Scientists looked at emission plans from 192 nations and calculated what would happen to global warming. They said China's pollution alone accounts for nearly two degrees of increase. The update also said sea level rise and loss of Arctic sea ice looks to be worse than projected just two years ago. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New hope in AIDS fight

For the first time, an experimental vaccine has prevented infection with the AIDS virus, a watershed event in the deadly epidemic and a surprising result. Recent failures led many scientists to think such a vaccine might never be possible.

The World Health Organization and the UN agency UNAIDS said the results "instilled new hope" in the field of HIV vaccine research.

The vaccine — a combination of two previously unsuccessful vaccines — cut the risk of becoming infected with HIV by more than 31 per cent in the world's largest AIDS vaccine trial of more than 16,000 volunteers in Thailand, researchers announced Thursday in Bangkok.

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Even though the benefit is modest, "it's the first evidence that we could have a safe and effective preventive vaccine," Col. Jerome Kim told The Associated Press. He helped lead the study for the U.S. Army, which sponsored it with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

Dr. Alan Bernstein, executive director of the Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise, said it was a landmark day.

"It is the very first time that there's been any evidence that it would be possible to develop a vaccine that would confer protection against HIV in humans," Bernstein, the past president of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, said from New York.

"I can't tell you how exciting a day this is."

Even a marginally helpful vaccine could have a big impact. Every day, 7,500 people worldwide are newly infected with HIV; two million died of AIDS in 2007, UNAIDS estimates.

The study tested the two-vaccine combination in a "prime-boost" approach.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WALT BOURKE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Demonstrators march Thursday in protest of the G20 summit.

Clashes at G20 summit

PITTSBURGH Police threw canisters of pepper spray and smoke at marchers protesting the Group of 20 summit Thursday in Pittsburgh after anarchists responded to calls to disperse by rolling trash bins and throwing rocks.

The march turned chaotic at just about the same time that U.S. President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama arrived for a meeting with leaders of the world's major economies.

The clashes began after hundreds of protesters, many advocating against capitalism, tried to march from an outlying neighbourhood toward the convention centre where the summit is being held.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

G8 gives Iran nuclear ultimatum, but China balks

NUCLEAR Pressure deepened against Iran on Thursday when the world's eight top economic powers gave Tehran until year's end to cease enriching uranium or face new sanctions, but resistance from China could undermine the effort.

The U.S. has been pushing for heavier sanctions if Iran does not agree to end enrichment, which many nations believe is part of Tehran's drive to build a nuclear weapon. Instead, more diplomatic efforts are needed, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu said.

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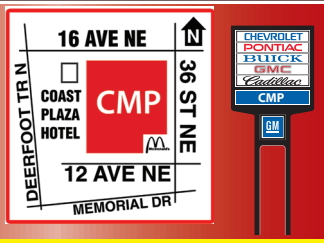

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AMVIC LICENSED

Eight charged for casino scam

Eight people have been charged in San Diego with conspiracy to cheat casinos in the U.S. and Canada of millions of dollars by bribing dealers to rig card games. U.S. prosecutors contend more than two dozen casinos were victimized in Canada, California, Nevada, Connecticut and Louisiana. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Suspect had explosives: Officials

TERROR An Afghan immigrant who received explosives training from al-Qaida went from one beauty supply store to another, buying up large quantities of hydrogen peroxide and nail-polish remover, in a chilling plot to build bombs for attacks on U.S. soil, authorities charged Thursday.

Najibullah Zazi, a 24-year-old shuttle driver at the Denver airport, was indicted in New York on charges of conspiracy to use weapons of mass destruction. Investigators found bomb-making instructions on his computer's hard drive and said Zazi used a hotel room in Colorado to try to cook up explosives a few weeks ago before a trip to New York.

The extent of Zazi's ties to al-Qaida was unclear, but if the allegations prove true, this could be the first operating al-Qaida cell to be uncovered inside the U.S. since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

Prosecutors said they have yet to establish exactly when and where the Zazi attacks were supposed to take place.

But Attorney General Eric Holder said in Washington, "We believe any imminent threat arising from this case has been disrupted."

Authorities said in the past few days that they feared Zazi and others might have been planning to detonate homemade bombs on New York trains.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Honduras **Zelaya still in hiding**

EDUARDO VERDUGO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

People protest against Honduras' ousted President Manuel Zelaya at the U.S. Embassy in Tegucigalpa Thursday. Zelaya and his loyalists took shelter Monday at the Brazilian Embassy and Honduras' interim president Roberto Micheletti vowed to arrest Zelaya if he leaves the shelter of the diplomatic mission.

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Comment

Arsenal of pesticides creates fear

UrbanCompass

Janice Paskey
metronews.ca/paskey

Celebrate this hot summer September week. We're still playing outside and our gardens have a welcome reprieve.

But the pesticide debate does not. The topic soldiers on all fall and into the winter.

This week, the city begins consulting citizens about pesticide use at a series of four open houses, one for each quadrant.

There's also a five-question online survey (what are the advantages of pesticides, what else would you use?) and an email address setup so you can register your opinion from home.

I love you fellow Calgarian, but I'm going to listen to scientists first.

This week, the Canadian Pediatric Society president joins other medical groups urging Calgary to pass a cosmetic pesticide ban. "We believe there is no reason to expose young people to toxic chemicals whose only purpose is changing a property's appearance," writes Dr. Robert C. Walker, noting persuasive evidence pesticides are linked to cancers and neurological impairment, such as Parkinson's.

Walker joins with the Registered Nurses of Alberta, Canadian Cancer Society, the Lung Association, and Learning Disabilities Association of Alberta in calling for a cosmetic pesticide ban.

What toxins are we using in Calgary?

You can find them listed in the city's request for proposal (RFP) issued on Aug. 25. A vendor is needed to supply on demand rodenticides, insecticides and herbicides.

Online survey

- An online survey on pesticide use is available at hargroup.ca/ppbc/7281logn.htm

The city's RFP calls for regularly stocked items including: Killex 2-4-3; a rodenticide called The Giant Killer; Atack Wasp Killer Plus; Milestone Aminopyralid; Amitrol 240; BigFoot Spray Patter WSB; Arsenal Imazapyr Lontrel; 360 Clopyralid; Success 480 SC; Vantage Glyphosate; Dicamba DyCleer; Metsulfuron Methyl Escort; Telar; Vanquish Dicamba; Velpar DF; Lontrel 360 Clopyralid; Trounce Permethrin, etc.

The Canadian Physicians for the Environment says the herbicide 2,4-D is linked to cancers, neurological impairment and reproductive problems. It is banned in Denmark, Norway and Sweden.

New research in toxicology argues the herbicide Glyphosate is an endocrine disruptor for humans.

The city wants two kinds of Permethrin, an insecticide known to kill cats, honeybees, fish. It's banned in the European Union. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency calls it a lung carcinogen.

The city's RFP calls for products that "have a lesser impact on human health and the environment when compared with competing products."

Good policy needs to come out of good science.

Not fear.

Yet, I am fearful of the arsenal of toxins my taxes pay for.

Fellow Calgarian, it's time to present the doctor's orders to city council.

Janice Paskey teaches journalism at Mount Royal College, serves on her community association board and is a proud mom to two boys; calgaryletters@metronews.ca.

Views

Raising Expectations for adoptive families

Laura Eggertson

Families created through adoption or assisted reproduction should celebrate the new report in Ontario acknowledging the value and struggles it took to build those families.

Now it's time for Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty and his cabinet to act on Raising Expectations' critical recommendations.

As an adoptive parent, and an adoptee, I know first-hand the barriers that hamper the efforts of families to adopt through the public system. The panel's first recommendations deal with adoption. Implementing the report's call for a central adoption agency, subsidies and post-adoption supports for parents of children classified as "special needs" would help dismantle those barriers.

As Raising Expectations points out, stigma, misconception and blame cloud both adoption and assisted reproduction. One such misconception is that doing nothing is a good option.

It costs $32,000 a year to keep a child in the care of the province. That's $300 million a year in total for 9,400 Crown wards. Subsequent societal costs of having children age out of the foster care system, drop out of school, become homeless, or become a teen parent themselves are even greater.

Many friends have shared the emotional and physical toll that infertility treatments take. Those who eventually conceive are thrilled. Others are devastated by being unable to become a parent.

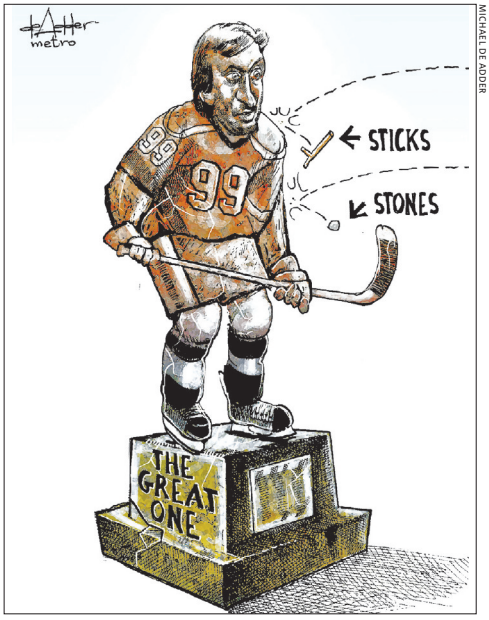
Their struggle also takes an economic toll on the province. That's because the high cost of fertility treatments — roughly $10,000 a cycle — encourages women to have several fertilized eggs implanted at once. That results in multiple births, which cost the health-care system more because of negative health outcomes for both mother and children.

Paying for three cycles of infertility treatments, as the report recommends, would reduce the incentive for multiple births and cut those health-care costs.

Making the legislative and policy changes required to support people prepared to parent the thousands of children waiting forever for families will further help the province's bottom line.

Even if you don't agree with the principles behind building strong, healthy families, the numbers tell the tale.

Laura Eggertson is an award-winning freelance journalist based in Ottawa, and a former Nieman fellow at Harvard University.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

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Venezuela to pay Lafarge 40% of cost for nationalized companies
The Venezuelan government said it will pay cement maker Lafarge SA 40 per cent of the agreed-upon purchase price for its subsidiaries nationalized last year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Real estate recession over: Report

House hunters still waiting for prices to drop further before buying may have sat on the sidelines too long, according to a new report showing home values have recovered across Canada to where they were before the recent market drop.

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Economists agree, saying the power has shifted to a seller's market in recent months, after the buyers were in control for more than a year.

"(The) bounce back that began in early spring has made this recession one of the shortest on record for real estate," said the Re/Max Bricks and Mortar Report released Thursday.

The survey says values are ahead of record highs set in 2008 in seven of the 11 markets surveyed for the brokerage network.

The national average price was $312,585, up 0.5 per cent from a year ago.

Re/Max said low interest rates, pent-up demand, and improved affordability as a result of record low interest rates are behind the recovery.

"Purchasers are clearly taking advantage of affordable prices and rock-bottom interest rates," said Re/Max executive vice-president Michael Polzler.

Polzler said home prices are rising and the number of properties for sale is tightening.

The survey shows home values were up the most in Newfoundland and Labrador, by 18.1 per cent from January to August to an average of $203,584, followed by a 6.4 per cent rise in Regina to $244,088 and a 3.5 per cent rise in Halifax-Dartmouth and Winnipeg, to $239,633 and $207,006 respectively.

Sales are also soaring, up 14 per cent in Vancouver so far this year, followed by a 7.4 per cent rise in Victoria, 6.2 per cent rise in Edmonton and five per cent jump in Regina.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Credit card default rate at record level in Q2

REPORT The amount of unpaid Canadian credit card debt being written off by issuers has risen nearly 60 per cent to record levels in the second quarter compared to the same time last year, says a new report from Moody's.

What's more, credit card delinquency rates — the number of accounts 30 days past due — rose 23 per cent in the April-June period versus last year, the reports shows.

The credit rating agency said the charge-off rate hit a new high of 4.8 per cent, which is a 57 per cent increase from 3.07 per cent for the second quarter last year.

Charge-off
- A charge-off is when a creditor gives up collecting a delinquent debt. It then charges the debt off its books.

"The intensity of the current recession has led to charge-offs that have exceeded previous cyclical highs by a relatively wide margin," states the quarterly Moody's Canadian Credit Card Index.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

China Socialism meets capitalism

ELIJAH NOUVELAGE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Workers line up to sing revolutionary songs ahead of their day's work in Nan Jie Cun, China. The village promotes itself as a commune run on socialist policies and its industries are collectively owned. But, the village's businesses operate on a strictly capitalist basis. For many, Nan Jie Cun has become a different type of model, a mixture of the free market and government control that has made China a new world power.

Clement to see if telecom deal benefits Canada

NORTEL Ottawa will be reviewing the sale of Nortel Networks' enterprise division to U.S. telecom equipment giant Avaya Inc. to see if the deal will bring enough economic benefit to Canada.

Tony Clement

Speaking Thursday to a group of investors, Industry Minister Tony Clement said Avaya's proposed deal will be subjected to the "net-benefit-to-Canada" test under the Industry Canada Act to ensure the transaction is in the country's best interests.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Ecuador rejects Chevron's arbitration bid

Ecuador on Thursday rejected as an inappropriate last-ditch effort Chevron Corp.'s attempt to force it into international arbitration so it might share liability in a $27 billion lawsuit over environmental damage in the Amazon rainforest. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business in brief

LACROIX The Quebec government will distribute about $7 million to investors duped by former Norbourg Inc. head Vincent Lacroix. Revenue Minister Robert Dutil said the money comes from income tax paid by Lacroix in 2005. The sum is a far cry from the $100 million Lacroix scammed from some 9,200 investors. Lacroix sent his victims a letter of apology this week, a day after pleading guilty to 200 fraud-related charges and then being immediately incarcerated.

AUTO The inspector general for the United States Treasury Department's $700-billion US bailout fund said Thursday he will review General Motors and Chrysler's closures of many of their auto dealerships as part of their restructuring plans. The companies said the closures were necessary to cut costs.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

G20 expected to back bankers' pay limits

G20 leaders are poised to adopt restrictions on the pay of bank executives, senior Canadian officials say.

Leaders will consider a series of recommendations that would defer the payment of bonuses to bankers and that would claw back those bonuses if the banks perform poorly, the officials said as talks among the G20 leaders were about to begin.

Another recommendation is to pay bankers partly in company stock, tying executives' fortunes to the health of the bank.

The recommendations are targeted at modifying the long-term performance of bank executives, but they're not an outright cap on their pay, as France and some other Europeans had argued for. Rather, it's a compromise championed by Canada, the U.S. and the United Kingdom.

The plan is contained in a report from the newly formed Financial Stability Board, a standard-setting body that includes officials from all G20 countries. The report will be given to leaders Friday for their approval, the Canadian officials said.

At the same time, the leaders are poised to agree to a framework that would increase the level and the quality of the capital requirements of banks.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Pirates lose before very small crowd

Bronson Arroyo limited Pittsburgh to one run over seven innings Thursday and the Cincinnati Reds completed their second sweep of the plummeting Pirates in less than a month, but the real story was the attendance. Despite selling 15,892 tickets, the turnstile count was about 3,000. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports

Lions struggle at gate, too

The Detroit Lions failed to sell all their tickets for Sunday's game against the Redskins, meaning there will be a TV blackout in some local markets. A team spokesman said Thursday the game will be blacked out in the Detroit, Lansing, Saginaw-Flint and Toledo, Ohio, markets. The Lions have lost 19 games in a row, matching the second-longest skid in NFL history. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: CHRIS.CLEMENTS@METRONEWS.CA

Scoring goals by committee

While continuing to rely heavily on scoring from captain Jarome Iginla, other forwards with the Calgary Flames will be given opportunities to play bigger roles offensively.

After leading the Calgary Flames with 39 goals last season, Michael Cammalleri signed as a free agent in the off-season with the Montreal Canadiens.

That has opened the door for other forwards to step to the forefront this season.

Rene Bourque, who had 21 goals in 56 games last season, and David Moss (20 goals in 81 contests) are likely candidates to carry more of the goal-scoring burden, while Curtis Glencross (13 goals in 74 games) and Dustin Boyd (11 goals in 71 games) will also be called upon to put the puck in the net more often.

"I think they're just going to keep getting better," said Iginla, who has confidence that his younger teammates will continue to improve upon their numbers.

"They're very determined and good goal scorers who will have more opportunity."

At practice on Thursday, Moss played on a line with Iginla and Olli Jokinen, who have worked well together in the preseason despite playing with several different left wingers.

With the off-season acquisitions of Nigel Dawes and Fredrick Sjostrom, the Flames have a number of talented young forwards that coach Brent Sutter will have at his disposal.

"Certainly, I think we're capable," said Moss of Calgary's ability to score goals by committee.

"This year we have a lot more guys who can contribute, maybe not 39 goals that (Cammalleri) scored, but certainly we'll generate offence from all different lines."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rene Bourque

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Stampeders gearing up for 'emotional game'

CFL Calgary's newly acquired receivers and the return of Lions linebacker JoJuan Armour to McMahon Stadium will be key subplots when the Stampeders host the B.C. Lions on Friday.

There would be enough intrigue in the matchup without those storylines. The four West Division teams are neck and neck with Calgary, Edmonton and Saskatchewan at 6-5 and B.C. right behind at 5-6.

The Eskimos and Roughriders meet Saturday, so Calgary is anxious to remain at the top of the logjam and put distance on the Lions.

"We definitely want to be 7-5 after this game," Calgary quarterback Henry Burris said. "This is going to be a very emotional game for us because if we lose this game and B.C. wins, we could be in last place and we don't want to be there."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sports in brief

HITMEN The Calgary Hitmen announced yesterday that forward Ian Schultz and defenceman Michael Stone will serve as co-captains this season. It's the second time in franchise history the Hitmen have selected co-captains. Last season, Kyle Bortis and Carson McMillan shared the role.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Crosby leaves game

Sidney Crosby left the Pittsburgh Penguins' exhibition game against Columbus early in the first period Thursday night because of a groin injury that wasn't believed to be serious. Crosby played three shifts totalling one minute 37 seconds before skating to the bench under his own power about five minutes into the game. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Baseball Jays down swinging

DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto's Vernon Wells reacts after striking out with a man in scoring position during Thursday night's game against the Seattle Mariners. The Blue Jays ended up losing 5-4.

Home-field advantage

U.S. criticism won't deter Canadian athletes

For Canada's Olympic hopefuls things are starting to get more than a little tense. This week's accusations by Americans in the New York Times that their northern rivals are unfairly using home-field advantage ruffled a few feathers. So be it.

The downhill ski gladiators dismissed those claims as sour grapes and went on to point out that competing before a friendly crowd on a familiar mountain is one of the benefits to be gained from staging the Olympic Games in your own backyard.

"It's kind of cool having a whole country standing behind you," claimed World Champion John Kucera of Calgary. "It takes away the whole job/race aspect of things. It takes me back to having fun and ripping around out there."

That's the up side of skiing on home snow. There's also intense pressure given the fact that Canada's athletes go into the 2010 Olympics better funded and with more of the general public having invested in their success than ever before.

"Canadians expect a lot of us," deadpanned Erik Guay of Mont-Tremblant.

"And so they should."

These are the exact sentiments echoed by most followers of the Canadian Olympic odyssey. The Own the Podium Program has made a pledge that Canada will be a contender in every event at these Olympics. They have also boldly stated that the home country should win the medal count. They've convinced the average Canadian that results matter.

So that means short of staging the requisite test events in Vancouver and Whistler, where international competitors have been invited to participate, Canadian athletes will make full use of the edge that comes from training time on those rinks, mountains and trails.

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

It's only natural and it's been that way forever. Competing at home is an accepted leg up on the rest — end of story.

"I think the expectations of us are the same," noted Manuel Osborne-Paradis of Vancouver. "It's just that a lot more Canadians have those expectations because the Games are at home."

They are soon to be on the hot seat in their own country. And there will be no excuses for failure. That's why Canada's athletes aren't about to give up home-field advantage at the eleventh hour.

Scott Russell is the Host of CBC Sports Weekend seen Saturday afternoons. He has covered professional and amateur sports including nine Olympic games and numerous world championships.

Sports in brief

GREAT ONE Wayne Gretzky stepped down as head coach and director of hockey operations of the beleaguered Phoenix Coyotes on Thursday. Gretzky, who is also the team's managing partner, said in a statement on his website that it's time to move on. Hours later, the Coyotes named Dave Tippett as Gretzky's successor.

NHL The Colorado Avalanche signed veteran forward Milan Hejduk on Thursday to a one-year contract extension through the 2010-11 season. Hejduk has spent his entire 11-year NHL career with the Avalanche. The team didn't release terms of the contract.

SWEDEN Former NHL forward Peter Forsberg scored less than six minutes into his comeback game, but his hometown team Modo lost 4-2 to Frolunda in a Swedish Elite League opener on Thursday. Forsberg beat former NHL goalie Johan Holmqvist just 5:44 in with a shot between the pads that brought the crowd of 6,596 at Swedbank Arena in Ornskoldsvik to its feet.

MMA Russian heavyweight Fedor Emelianenko will make his Strikeforce debut Nov. 7 against Brett (The Grim) Rogers at Sears Centre Arena in suburban Chicago.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Movies&Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Movies

Girl power

Pg 20

A crowd-pleaser at this year's Toronto International Film Festival, Drew Barrymore's directorial debut Whip It is about true sisterhood. "The girls who do it aren't doing it for money. They're nurses and librarians by day, and then these tough derby chicks by night. They're 'finding their tribe.'"

Movies Pg 22

Trailer Park Boys treads old ground but will please fans.

Music Pg 25

Harry Connick Jr. takes on classics in Your Songs.

Television Pg 28

Filmmaker's doc aims to find hope in chemical war zone.

At a glance
Fame ⊕, Pandorum ⊕⊕½, Surrogates ⊕⊕½, Trailer Park Boys: Countdown to Liquor Day ⊕⊕½

Movies

⊕⊕⊕⊕⊕ A CLASSIC; ⊕⊕⊕⊕ EXCELLENT; ⊕⊕⊕ GOOD; ⊕⊕ FAIR; ⊕ POOR

Women on wheels

Barrymore's directorial debut takes fresh look at girl power

Halifax native Ellen Page, fifth from left, stars in Whip It, directed by Drew Barrymore.

ADAM NAYMAN
for Metro Canada

Although it emerged as a crowd-pleaser at this year's Toronto International Film Festival, Drew Barrymore's directorial debut Whip It is a more unconventional movie than one might expect.

Not only does its story of a small-town Texas girl named Bliss (Halifax native Ellen Page) who spurns the beauty pageant circuit to join a local roller derby team skate circles around sports-movie clichés, it also cuts its heroine's disapproving mother (Marcia Gay Harden) a surprising amount of slack.

"That's the love story," explains Barrymore. "I wanted to surprise people, and have it not be about Bliss and some boy, but about a girl and her mother. I didn't want (Harden) to be an archetypal villain.

Whip It opens in theatres next Friday

"And I also didn't want to do the typical thing with beauty pageants, which are always made fun of so cruelly in movies. I think that doing pageants could definitely be somebody's choice in life, but not for Bliss, because that's not who she is.

Who Bliss turns out to be — at least one night a week — is Babe Ruthless, her hard-driving, elbow throwing alter ego.

"Derby is an underground sport cropping up across the country," says Barrymore, who also appears in the film as an unholy roller with the track handle Smashlee Simpson.

"The girls who do it aren't doing it for money. They're nurses and librarians by day, and then these tough derby chicks by night. They're 'finding their tribe,' which is a huge thing for me in my life, and something I think that I was able to inject into Bliss' character."

Movie feature

As a director, Barrymore says that she was inspired by the films she watched as an '80s baby, including Breaking Away and the works of the late John Hughes.

"Those movies were so human," she says. "There was tons of room for comedy, but also for interesting, realistic family dynamics. I thought that those directors were able to reach amazing emotional depths. Making Whip It, I wanted to go back to that time, and to avoid any sort of modern poppiness."

That said, one of Whip It's best features is the way it uses a very modern pop singer — the critically acclaimed Swedish crooner Jens Lekman — to underscore its most lyrical passages.

"We have four or five of his songs in the movie, and I actually flew him out to the editing room," says Barrymore. "I completely fell in love with his music when we were making this movie."

On the web

- For movie photos, trailers and screen times — or to buy tickets — visit metronews.ca/movies

Jason Leigh pregnant

Jennifer Jason Leigh and her director husband Noah Baumbach are expecting their first child together, according to reports. The couple, who wed in 2005, has been trying to start a family for more than a year. **FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK**

Movies

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Plot, acting kill Surrogates

Bruce Willis stars as an FBI agent in Surrogates.

Surrogates

Director: Jonathan Mostow
Stars: Bruce Willis, Ving Rhames, James Cromwell
Classification: STC
Rating: ●●½

IAN GORMELY
for Metro Canada

Surrogates, the new sci-fi thriller starring Bruce Willis, is a luddite's nightmare. Inexplicably mixing Wall-E's social commentary and Minority Report's crimeless-future, the film presents a world where all human interaction occurs through robot surrogates, controlled by their flesh-and-blood counterparts from the safety of a chair at home.

What's more, most people tend to adopt an idealized physical appearance giving their surrogate versions a creepy Barbie and Ken look.

It's on this novel premise that director Jonathan Mostow hangs a rather traditional murder mystery. The film opens with the murder of the son of Dr. Lionel Canter (James Cromwell), the inventor of surrogates.

In steps Agent Greer (Willis), the FBI officer assigned to what turns out to be the first murder in years. He and his partner Agent Peters (Radha Mitchell) quickly discover that the murderer was able to override the victim's surrogate's safety features with a new weapon.

Based on a comic book of the same name, Surrogates is yet another example of a film that takes an intriguing idea and drives it into the ground. One reason could be the incredibly stiff acting from a talented group of actors. Another is an absurd number of plot holes. But mostly the rote plot and an incredibly bland villain ensure that what could have been a visceral fall blockbuster is a mildly entertaining stinker.

A scene from the horror sci-fi flick Pandorum.

Pandorum squanders promising premise

Pandorum

Director: Christian Alvert
Stars: Ben Foster, Dennis Quaid, Antje Traue
Classification: STC
Rating: ●●½

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

REVIEW Pandorum is a fairly entertaining science fiction/horror movie that doesn't quite work, but comes awfully close.

Two astronauts wake up from hyper-sleep with their memories missing due to an overlong nap. They quickly realize that something is wrong, but can't remember exactly what should be happening.

The younger man (Ben Foster) runs off to explore while the older officer (Dennis Quaid) stays put by a computer. It soon becomes clear that they aren't alone when a horrific race of humanoid monsters show up and start attacking everything that is still moving.

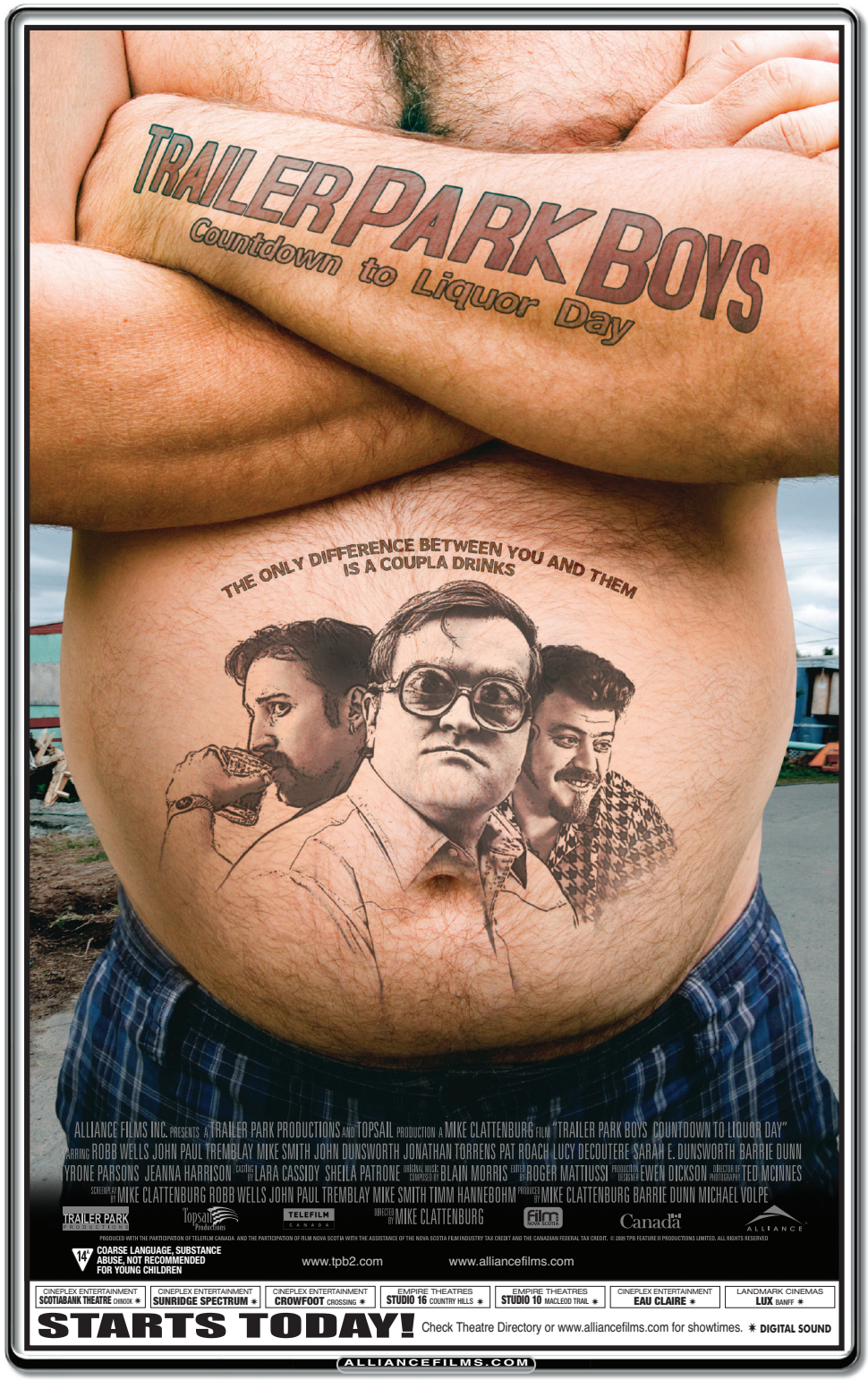
The set up is intriguing and for a while it seems like Pandorum might be a decent space horror romp like Event Horizon.

Unfortunately a kung fu fighting hottie scientist (Antje Traue) is thrown into the mix and things get silly fast.

Pandorum opens with a bang that should grab the audience's attention, but sadly dissolves into absurdity and cliché by the finale. The screenplay simply juggles too many ideas and genres to form a cohesive whole.

German director Christian Alvart has an aggressive visual style that suits the material well. If you can switch your brain off Pandorum will be an entertaining ride, but the moment you are thinking about what's happening onscreen you'll be in trouble.

• For Pandorum photos, a trailer and screen times — or to buy tickets — visit metronews.ca/movies



Timberlake, Eisenberg get Social
Justin Timberlake, left, and Jesse Eisenberg have nabbed the leads in The Social Network (a.k.a. The Facebook Movie), a drama written by Aaron Sorkin, according to Variety. TVGUIDE.COM

Reel Time

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Old liquor, old bottle

Trailer Park Boys:
Countdown to Liquor Day

Director: Mike Clattenburg
Stars: Robb Wells, John Paul Tremblay, Mike Smith
Classification: 14A
Rating: ●●½

IAN GORMELY
for Metro Canada

Mike Smith reprises Bubbles in Trailer Park Boys: Countdown to Liquor Day.

By now, anyone who cares to know about Trailer Park Boys, even in the most passive way, already does. Ricky, Julian and Bubbles — the trio of mobile home-dwelling misfits whose get rich quick schemes were the focus of seven seasons and one previous movie, all shot in and around Halifax — are well on their way to becoming national comedic icons on par with Bob and Doug McKenzie.

Which makes director Mike Clattenburg's decision to make a second film that simply retreads the past all the more confusing.

Like most of their adventures, Countdown to Liquor Day starts with the boys in jail. Upon their exit from the clink they find the Sunnyvale Trailer Park abandoned, and Bubble's cats corralled by animal control, in favour of a new one owned and operated by their old nemesis Jim Lahey and his bi-sexual, cross-dressing partner Randy.

The two sides seem content to leave the other be except that Lahey now needs to run a sewer line through Julian's property in Sunnyvale. The problem is that Julian, in an attempt to go straight has turned his old trailer into an auto-body shop. Things are further complicated after a sober Mr. Lahey falls off the wagon again when domestic problems with Randy arise.

Countdown to Liquor Day retains the charm that made the television show an endearing guilty pleasure. And both the film's beginning and end are well worth the price of admission for fans. However the film drags badly in its mid-section, thanks to a series of sub-plots that ultimately go nowhere.

Given the number of times we've seen Ricky, Julian and Bubbles clash with Lahey in the trailer park it would have been nice for the writers to come up with some kind of twist that would introduce new characters or surroundings.

One bright spot is an expanded role for wannabe white rapper J-Roc, played by former Jonovision host Jonathan Torrens, whose ridiculous gangsta dialect is a highlight throughout the movie. But it's not enough to elevate the film above its status as one overlong episode of the television show.

• For Trailer Park Boys: Countdown to Liquor Day photos, a trailer and screen times — or to buy tickets — visit metronews.ca/movies

Fame a full-blown, high-gloss dud

Fame

Director: Kevin Tancharoen
Stars: Kelsey Grammer, Bebe Neuwirth, Debbie Allen
Classification: STC
Rating: ●

CHRIS ALEXANDER
for Metro Canada

A scene from the latest version of Fame.

REVIEW Beware when Hollywood hacks remake a classic and call it a reinvention. More often than not the results are not only perfunctory, but an insulting nose thumbing to the potency and power of the original picture it's so cravenly plundering.

Not that Alan Parker's 1980 teen angst musical Fame is the Battleship Potemkin or anything, but at the very least it had edge, well drawn characters, blistering musical numbers, a great script and slick directorial style.

Kevin Tancharoen's self professed "reinvention" of Fame however, has none of its predecessor's qualities. In fact it's bloody awful.

The haphazard, completely un-engaging "plot" cycles through four years in the lives of a handful of talented NYC kids who manage to wiggle their way into an elite arts high school.

Dancers, singers, rappers, classical pianists, actors all jam through their life with the finesse of a crack fuelled hot rod.

Literally, each year is realized in incoherent 20 minute intervals with over a dozen central teens hopelessly trying to convey their learning curve while their tough, wiser than though professors nod in approval (Kelsey Grammer, Bebe Neuwirth and returning cast member Debbie Allen are almost comically wasted as the fortune cookie quoting teachers).

There's no one to root for in Fame, nothing to connect with or care about. And the songs are not only sparse, but generally useless. Sure some of the young performers are probably gifted and try their best, but Tancharoen's cross-eyed direction never gives them a chance to properly shine.

Fame is a full-blown, high-gloss dud, and where Parker's heartfelt original was rated R, this PG rated stinker is timid enough for your toddler. Avoid it like acne.

• For Fame photos, a trailer and screen times — or to buy tickets — visit metronews.ca/movies

No humour lost in Great White North

InFocus

Richard Crouse
metronews.ca/infocus

People treat Canadian movies as a serious subject. The mere mention of Great White Northern film conjures up images of dysfunctional family dramas, stark Arctic vistas or bumbling Mounties.

Writer Kathryn Monk summed it up nicely when she wrote a history of Can Con cinema called Weird Sex and Snowshoes. The title of her excellent book puts into words what many people perceive as the state of our home-grown film industry.

We may do our fair share of serious, introspective movies but between moments of navel gazing we also make movies that make people laugh, as we'll see in this weekend's Trailer Park Boys: Countdown to Liquor Day.

Years before the Trailer Park Boys brought their own brand of East Coast, humour to the big screen another troupe of comedians from the right hand side of the country created The Adventure of Faustus Bidgood.

It's a surreal comedy starring CODCO's Andy Jones as a provincial department of education clerk who fantasizes about becoming president of People's Republic of Newfoundland and seceding from Canada.

The film, which was the first movie produced entirely in Newfoundland with home-based cast, crew, and funding, is a little inconsistent in tone — it was shot over a 10 year span as money was raised little by little — but is a riot of sight gags and unconventional humour.

Better known is Les Boys, a 1997 Quebec-made comedy that forms the cornerstone of the most successful Quebec made film series of all time.

Rémy Girard, Patrick Labbé and Pierre Lebeau in Les Boys.

The story, which echoes Slap Shot with a touch of Mystery, Alaska thrown in, sees a ragtag group of amateur hockey players squaring off against a Mafia boss's team to win back ownership of their coach's bar.

It's raunchy formulaic fun that has spawned two successful sequels and a television series.

Our final Canadian comedy found inspiration from an unlikely source. Strange Brew, the Bob and Doug McKenzie (Dave Thomas and Rick Moranis) film about something rotten at the Elsinore Brewery, is loosely based on Hamlet, with the McKenzie Brothers taking the roles of Rosencrantz and Guildenstern. Also, according to hoser Bob it was "shot in 3B — three beers! — and it looks good, eh?"

For all the great films we've made in this country Saturday Night Live czar Lorne Michaels jokes a Canadian would never make a film called It's a Wonderful Life because "that would be bragging." He says the Canadian version would be called It's an All Right Life. Sounds like the next great Canadian comedy to me.

Richard Crouse's Movie Show can be seen every Sunday at 6:30 p.m. on the E! Channel; mrchaos33@hotmail.com.

Dennehy approached for Haggis thriller
Brian Dennehy, right, is in negotiations to join the cast of Paul Haggis' new film, The Next Three Days. The film, a remake of the French thriller Pour Elle, stars Russell Crowe and Elizabeth Banks. EMPIREONLINE.COM

The truth about Lying collaboration

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

FEATURE The Invention Of Lying is being presented as the latest film from Ricky Gervais — and that's fair. After all, the guy co-wrote and co-directed the movie in addition to playing the lead.

However, it's worth noting that Ricky Gervais is not the lone creative voice behind the project. The concept (about the first man to ever tell a lie in an imagined truth-filled world) actually came from co-writer/co-director Matthew Robinson, who makes his feature filmmaking debut with the film.

"I was basically just an unknown screenwriter working in Los Angeles for the last ten years," Robinson told Metro. "I wrote the script and got it to producer Linda Obst. I told her that I would love to get it to Ricky Gervais on a lark. I thought I had no chance."

Robinson was not only able to land Gervais as the star of his film, but also as a creative collaborator. "He said after reading page 10 he called his agent and asked for my phone number. Three weeks later I was in London working on the script with him."

Despite having never even met before, Ricky Gervais and Matt Robinson were able to find a creative groove instantly.

"The more we worked on the script and the more we fell in love with the story, the more Ricky became worried about giving it to another director," says Robinson.

Both Robinson and Gervais were pleased with their collaboration and had no problem bringing the script to life as co-directors.

"We worked in exactly the same way as I do with Steve Merchant. We had one simple rule. We didn't compromise. One veto from either of us and it was out," says Gervais.

Moore's manifesto

Doc director rails against corporate greed in Capitalism

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

Michael Moore is a filmmaker who sparks instant anger or appreciation whenever he's mentioned.

The director helped make documentaries marketable when his controversial Fahrenheit 9/11 became the first non-fiction film to gross over $100 million, while his satirical style has influenced a generation of documentary filmmakers and expanded the possibilities of the medium.

However, Moore's hard left political stance has earned him as many enemies as fans. One of the criticisms most commonly launched against Moore is that his movies are so loaded with his opinions that they can't be considered documentaries because they lack objectivity.

It's an unfair argument that seems to misunderstand what he does as a filmmaker. "I've said for a long time these are cinematic op-ed pieces," Moore told Metro. "They're my take on things. The facts in them are 100 per cent correct, but the opinions are mine. I may be right or I may be wrong."

Michael Moore takes aim at the U.S. economic system with a dash of his satiric humour in Capitalism: A Love Story.

Michael Moore's latest cinematic essay is Capitalism: A Love Story — opening next Friday — a film about America's greed-driven corporate culture and how it led to the current economic recession. The movie combines many of the arguments against big business that Moore has made throughout his career.

"There was a point when Manifesto was a potential title," says Moore. "I really set out to make this film with the attitude of if I weren't able to make another film after this, what would my last film say? That was the trigger for a lot of what's in there. It really is an extension of a lot of the things I've been saying for 20 years."

Of course, a depressing movie about economics is not exactly destined to be a crowd pleaser. That's something that Moore took to heart when making the film, knowing he would have to lighten the tone with his patented brand of satiric humour. "The risk when it came to asking the studio for money to make the film was saying, 'I think people will come on a Friday night to see a movie that is essentially an examination of the economic system,'" said Moore. "That's really not what you think of doing when you get home on Friday and want to escape at the movies. I had a huge challenge in front of me to try and figure out how to make this a piece of entertaining cinema that is hopefully thought-provoking as well."

Movie **feature**

Screen Times

This week's new releases are highlighted in pink.

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., SEPT. 25 TO THURS., OCT. 1. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

CANYON MEADOWS

Bay 110, 13226 Macleod Trail, 403-670-5444

Aliens in the Attic (PG) Fri-Thu 1:25-3:50-6:30
The Brothers Bloom (PG) Fri-Thu 3:45-6:45
Funny People (14A) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:30-8:15
The Goods: Live Hard. Sell Hard. (18A) Fri-Thu 9:40
The Hurt Locker (14A) Fri-Thu 9:30
Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (G) Fri-Thu 1:35-4:20-7:10
A Perfect Getaway (14A) Fri-Thu 9:35
Post Grad (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:05-7:05-9:25
The Proposal (PG) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:55-7:30-10
Public Enemies (14A) Fri-Thu 12:45-9:20
Shorts (G) Fri-Thu 1-3:40-7:15-9:45
Star Trek (PG) Fri-Thu 12:50-4-6:50-9:50
Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen (PG) Fri-Thu 1:05-4:10-7:45
Up (G) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:25-7

CROWFOOT CROSSING

91 Crowfoot Terrace, 403-547-3316

9 (PG) Fri-Wed 12:35-2:50-5:10-7:40-9:55 Thu 12:35-2:50-5:10-7:40
All About Steve (PG) Fri-Thu 1:05-3:45-7-9:30
All's Well That Ends Well (STC) (National Theatre's NT Live series) Thu 8
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs (G) No Passes Fri-Tue 12:55-3:15-6:45 No Passes Wed 3:15-6:45 No Passes Thu 12:55-3:15-6:45 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 3D (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:30-2:45-5-7:20-9:45
Fame (PG) Fri-Tue 12:40-3:30-6:50-9:40 Wed 3:30-6:50-9:40 Thu 12:40-3:30-6:50-9:40 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
The Informant! (14A) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:20-7:25-10:10
Inglourious Basterds (18A) Fri-Wed 2-6:30-9:50 Thu 2-9:50
Jennifer's Body (14A) No Passes Fri 1:40-4:40-7:45-10:25 No Passes Sat 1:40-4:40-10:25 No Passes Sun-Thu 1:40-4:40-7:45-10:25
Julie & Julia (PG) Fri-Thu 9:35
Love Happens (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:50-4:10-7:05-10
Pandorum (18A) Fri-Thu 1:15-4-7:15-10:15
Surrogates (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:30-4:15-7:30-10:05
Trailer Park Boys: Countdown to Liquor Day (STC) Fri-Thu 1:45-4:30-7:35-10:20
Whip It (PG) No Passes Sat 7

EAU CLAIRE MARKET

200 Barlay Parade, 403-263-3166

9 (PG) Fri 6:45-9:30 Sat-Sun 1-3:30-6:45-9:30 Mon-Thu 6:45-9:30
The Informant! (14A) Fri 7:30-10:15 Sat-Sun 12-3-7:30-10:15 Mon-Thu 7:15-10
Inglourious Basterds (18A) Fri 6:30-9:45 Sat-Sun 2:30-6:30-9:45 Mon-Thu 6:30-9:45
Trailer Park Boys: Countdown to Liquor Day (STC) Fri 7:15-10 Sat-Sun 12:30-4-7:15-10 Mon-Thu 7:30-10:15

EMPIRE STUDIO 16 COUNTRY HILLS

388 Country Hills Blvd., 403-686-8491

9 (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:30-3:50-6:55-9:15
All About Steve (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:10-3:15-7:25-10:05
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs (G) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 12:40-3-6:40-9 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Sun-Tue 12:40-3-6:40-9 No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 12:40-3-6:40-9
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 3D (G) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 12-2:20-4:40-7:10-9:35 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Sun-Tue 12-2:20-4:40-7:10-9:35 No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 12-2:20-4:40-7:10-9:35
District 9 (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 1:10-4:10-6:55-9:45 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 1:10-4:10-9:45 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 1:10-4:10-6:55-9:45
Evangelion: 1.0 You Are (Not) Alone (14A) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 7
Fame (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1-3:45-7:05-9:45
The Final Destination (STC) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:50-4:30-7:45-10:10
G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:15-3:05-6:45-9:50
The Hangover (18A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 2-4:45-7:40-10:15
The Informant! (14A) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 12:25-4:15-7:30-10:05 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Sun-Thu 12:25-4:15-7:30-10:05
Inglourious Basterds (18A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:05-3:25-6:40-9:55
Jennifer's Body (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:45-3:30-7:20-9:50
Love Happens (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:20-4-6:50-9:35
Pandorum (18A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:20-3:40-7:15-10
Surrogates (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Thu 12:30-3:10-7:10-9:30
Trailer Park Boys: Countdown to Liquor Day (STC) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:50-3:35-7-9:40

EMPIRE STUDIO 10 MACLEOD TRAIL

100-16061 MacLeod Trail, 403-974-0470

9 (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 2-4:20-6:45-9:20
All About Steve (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:45-4:35-7:20
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 3D (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1-3:45-6:40-9:15
District 9 (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 10:05
Fame (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:45-4:15-7:15-10
The Informant! (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:15-3:10-6:50-9:30
Inglourious Basterds (18A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 11:45-3-6:30-9:50
Jennifer's Body (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 12-3:20-7:05-9:40 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 12-3:20-9:40 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 12-3:20-7:05-9:40
Love Happens (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:30-3:30-7:10-9:55
Surrogates (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Thu 1:15-4-7-9:45
Trailer Park Boys: Countdown to Liquor Day (STC) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:15

GLOBE CINEMA

617-8 Avenue, 403-262-3308

10th Annual Calgary International Film Festival (STC) Fri-Thu

MOVIEDOME

1039 999 36 St. N.E., 403-248-2000

Dil Bole Hadippa! (PG) Fri-Thu 2-6:30-8:30
Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (G) Fri-Thu 1-3:45-6:55-9:40
A Perfect Getaway (14A) Fri-Thu 10
Post Grad (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:05-7:10-10:05
The Proposal (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:50-6:45-9:50
Shorts (G) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:55-7:05-9:45
Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45-4-8
The Ugly Truth (14A) Fri-Thu 1:05-3:50-7-9:55
Up (G) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:40
What's Your Raashee? (STC) Fri-Thu 1:30-7:30

SCOTIABANK CHINOOK

6455 MacLeod Trail, 403-212-8994

9 (PG) Fri-Tue 12:15-2:40-5:05-7:15-9:45 Wed 12:15-2:40-5:05-9:45 Thu 12:15-2:40-5:05-7:15-9:45
All About Steve (PG) Fri-Wed 1:10-4:10-7:10-10:05 Thu 4:10-7:10-10:05 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
All's Well That Ends Well (STC) (National Theatre's NT Live series)
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:30-4-6:45
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 3D (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:30-2:50-5:10-7:30-10
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs: An IMAX 3D Experience (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 12-2:20-4:40-7-9:20
District 9 (14A) Fri-Thu 1:05-4:15-7:25-10:25
Evangelion: 1.0 You Are (Not) Alone (14A) Wed 7
Extract (14A) Fri-Thu 10:20
Fame (PG) Fri-Thu 12:25-3:40-7-9:50
The Final Destination 3D (STC) Fri-Sun 1:10-4:20-7:20-10:15 Mon 1:10-4:20-10:15 Tue-Wed 1:10-4:20-7:20-10:15 Thu 1:10-4:20
Gamer (18A) Fri-Thu 3-10:30
Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (PG) Fri-Thu 12:05-3:10-6:45
The Informant! (14A) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:30-7:05-10
Inglourious Basterds (18A) Fri-Thu 12-3:30-6:45-10:05
Jennifer's Body (14A) No Passes Fri 1:30-4:20-7:40-10:25 No Passes Sat 1:30-4:20-10:25 No Passes Sun-Thu 1:30-4:20-7:40-10:25
Love Happens (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 1-4-7:05-10:15
Pandorum (18A) Fri-Thu 12:40-4:05-7:30-10:30
Surrogates (14A) No Passes Fri-Wed 12:50-3:50-7:15-10:10 No Passes Thu 3:50-7:15-10:10 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Thu 1
The Time Traveler's Wife (PG) Fri-Thu 12:10-7:10
Trailer Park Boys: Countdown to Liquor Day (STC) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:15-7:20-10:20
Whip It (PG) No Passes Sat 7
Whiteout (14A) Fri-Thu 10:10

PLAZA THEATRE

1133 Kensington Rd. N.W., 403-283-3636

10th Annual Calgary International Film Festival (STC) Fri-Thu

SUNRIDGE SPECTRUM

2555 32nd Street, 403-717-1200

9 (PG) Fri-Thu 12:05-2:45-5-7:25-9:45
All About Steve (PG) Fri-Thu 1-3:40-7:10-9:50
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 3D (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 12-2:35-5:05-7:30-10:05
District 9 (14A) Fri-Wed 12:35-3:25-7:15-10:10 Thu 12:35-3:25-10:10
Fame (PG) Fri-Tue 12:40-3:30-7:05-9:55 Wed 3:30-7:05-9:55 Thu 12:40-3:30-7:05-9:55 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
The Final Destination 3D (STC) Fri-Tue 12:20-2:50-5:05-7:45-10:15 Wed 12:20-2:50-10:15 Thu 12:20-2:50-5:05-7:45-10:15
Gamer (18A) Fri-Thu 10:30
The Informant! (14A) Fri-Thu 12:25-3:15-6:40-9:30
Inglourious Basterds (18A) Fri-Thu 2-6:30-10
Jennifer's Body (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:45-3:35-7:35-10:25
Love Happens (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:15-3:05-6:55-9:40
Pandorum (18A) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:20-7:20-10:20
Surrogates (14A) No Passes Fri-Tue 12:10-2:40-5:10-7:40-10:25 No Passes Wed 5:10-7:40-10:25 No Passes Thu 12:10-2:40-5:10-7:40-10:25 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1
Trailer Park Boys: Countdown to Liquor Day (STC) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:45-6:50-9:35
Wanted (Hindi w/ e.s.t) (14A) Fri-Thu 2:15-7

THE UPTOWN

612 8th Ave. S.W., 403-265-0120

Cold Souls (PG) Fri-Thu 5
District 9 (14A) Fri 7:10-9:25 Sat-Sun 12:15-2:40-7:10-9:25 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:25
Julie & Julia (PG) Fri 12-2:25 Sat-Sun 12-2:25-6:50-9:30 Mon-Thu 12-2:25
Moon (14A) Fri-Thu 4:50
Toons For Toddlers (STC) Sat 10:30

WESTHILLS 10

165 Stewart Green, 403-246-5291

9 (PG) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:20-6:40-9:15 Mon-Thu 5:40-7:50
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 3D (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:30-2:40-4:50-7:10-9:30 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:25-7:40
Fame (PG) Fri-Sun 1-3:40-7-9:50 Mon-Thu 5:30-8
The Informant! (14A) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:30-6:50-9:40 Mon-Thu 5:35-8:10
Inglourious Basterds (18A) Fri-Sun 12:35-3:50-7:50 Mon-Thu 5:20-8:20
Jennifer's Body (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:15-4:05-7:40-10:20 No Passes Mon-Thu 6:30-9
Love Happens (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:30-4:10-7:20-10 No Passes Mon-Thu 6:10-8:50
Surrogates (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:20-4:20-7:30-10:10 No Passes Mon-Thu 6:20-8:40

Billboard's top albums
1. The Blueprint 3, Jay-Z, right; **2.** I Look To You, Whitney Houston; **3.** The Resistance, Muse; **4.** Man on the Moon: The End of Day, Kid Cudi; **5.** Time Of Our Lives, Miley Cyrus. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Music

Harry Connick Jr. did it Your Way

Singer gets an assist from Clive Davis on latest album

BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
for Metro Canada

Harry Connick Jr. has accomplished a lot in his career — he's released more than 20 albums, acted on TV and on film — but one thing he's never done, until recently, was work with Clive Davis. In fact, he hadn't even met the legendary producer until he was summoned to his office in New York.

"My manager called me and said Clive Davis wants to meet with you," Connick tells Metro. "I didn't know what that meant."

It turned out Davis wanted the veteran jazz musician to sing an album of famous pop songs. It sounds easy enough, but it turned out to be a lot harder to do than the singer thought.

"I've never collaborated with someone before," he says. "So I'd write some arrangements and he would be like 'those strings are too high' or 'there shouldn't be a guitar in there.' I got really bristly. My ego was hurt."

It wasn't just the music that Davis criticized, it was the song selection and the name of the album too. Connick originally wanted to sing a Nat King Cole song, but Davis said it wasn't popular enough. He also hoped to call the disc A Love Like Ours, which is a line from the Beatles song And I Love Her (it appears on the disc). Davis said no.

"He said this is not a record about love songs, it's a record about familiarity and presenting songs to people that they know, so you have to call it Your Songs," he says. "I didn't know if I wanted to do that, but you know what? I let him have it.

GETTY IMAGES

Harry Connick Jr.'s latest album, Your Songs, was released earlier this week.

"Am I selling out? I don't know. Am I acquiescing to the point of diluting what I believe? I don't think so. I'm just having a different type of experience."

Connick is being hard on himself — while the new disc won't go down as being one of his best — the jazzy pop orchestral arrangements, which he wrote himself, are bright, full and complex, and the song selection is exactly what Davis wanted, popular and familiar. There's Billy Joel's Just The Way You Are, Nat King Cole's Mona Lisa and Elton John's Your Song, among other popular tunes.

While Connick has recorded other people's music in the past — he's also penned plenty of originals — doing something like this, something that's obviously geared toward the masses, is a change.

"(Davis) said this is not a record about love songs, it's a record about familiarity and presenting songs to people that they know, so you have to call it Your Songs."
Harry Connick Jr.

But, he explains that, unlike some artists, he doesn't just waltz in on a weekend to lay down vocals. "I'm the guy who says that note is flat. I'm the guy who does all the work, not some of it. Every note you see the orchestra playing is what I did. Singing is just part of the process."

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Amazon.ca's top albums

1. Stereo Box Set, The Beatles, left 2. Mono Box Set, The Beatles; 3. Abbey Road, The Beatles; 4. Revolver, The Beatles; 5. Rubber Soul, The Beatles. METRO NEWS SERVICES

TOP 10 RINGTONES
1 I Gotta Feeling Black Eyed Peas
2 Sexy B—h David Guetta
3 I Know You Want Me Pitbull
4 Fire Burning Sean Kingston
5 Best I Ever Had Drake
6 One Time Justin Bieber
7 Birthday Sex Jeremih
8 Boom Boom Pow Black Eyed Peas
9 Hotel Room Service Pitbull
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Ready to make noise this fall

SoundCheck

Alan Cross

metronews.ca/soundcheck

Last week, I started going through some fourth-quarter CD releases that will have heavy impacts on the bottom lines of the major record labels. Here are a few more:

Muse — The Resistance (Out now): Over the rest of the planet, they're huge enough or singer/guitarist Matt Bellamy to live in a villa on Lake Como in Italy. In North America, they're still rather cult-y. This record may change that.

AFI — Crash Love (Tuesday): They're under pressure to followup 2006's million-selling Decemberunderground with something just as strong. Many of the songs were road-tested over the summer with the single, Medicate, emerging as a fan favourite.

La Roux — La Roux (now out): She looks like a Ziggy Stardust-era David Bowie but lives in a world of dance floor-friendly electropop. Already a hit in the U.K. — she was up for the Mercury Prize — is this the kind of music that translates to North America?

Kiss — Sonic Boom (Oct 6): It's been 11 years since the last studio album from Kiss, but I can't say that I know many people devastated by this gap in the band's oeuvre. One version will come with re-recordings of their big hits.

Dead by Sunrise — Out of Ashes (Oct 13): If you can't get enough Linkin Park, then you'll need this first solo release by vocalist Chester Bennington, which contains songs he wrote while LP was locked in an ugly contract battle a few years ago.

Bob Dylan — Christmas in The Heart (Oct 13): Yes, you read that right: a Christmas album from Mr. Zimmerman. He does "Here Comes Santa Claus" and "O Little Town of Bethleham." No, really.

Nirvana — Live at Reading (Nov 3): Bootleg video of what some people consider to be Nirvana's finest performance have been floating around for years. Now we'll finally get nice clean images on the DVD and clean-up sound for the CD version.

Foo Fighters — Greatest Hits (Nov 3): Fifteen years and six albums deep into the post-Nirvana world, Dave Grohl's crew will issue a double disc that will also feature two new songs, including Wheels, a track the band debuted at a White House barbecue on July 4.

Eminem — Relapse 2 (Nov 17): Mr. Mathers has sold 32 million records this decade, more than any other artist. The follow-up to Relapse, which came out in May, will add to that total.

GETTY IMAGES

Sonic Boom is the first studio album from Kiss in 11 years.

The Ongoing History Of New Music can be heard on stations across Canada. Read more at ongoinghistory.com and exploremusic.com

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CW wants some more

The CW wants to see more of One Tree Hill, Melrose Place and The Vampire Diaries. The network ordered a full 22-episode season of One Tree Hill, and ordered nine new scripts for new series The Vampire Diaries. TVGUIDE.COM

Television

Green parenting in a toxic world

ADAM NAYMAN
for Metro Canada

The title of Min Sook-Lee's My Toxic Baby sounds like a horror film, and in a way, that designation is apt.

The Toronto-based filmmaker's new short documentary — which premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival earlier this month — pivots on perhaps the deepest and most universal anxiety of all: The terror of becoming a new parent.

"I've always seen myself as a socially conscious person," says Lee, an award-winning director whose previous credits include the excellent 2005 doc Hogtown: The Politics of Policing.

"But I had never wholly integrated ecologically friendly living habits into my life until my daughter was born. Bringing a brand new person into the world changed the rules of the game fundamentally."

Min Sook-Lee turned the lens on herself as she sought out an pure living environment for her daughter, Song Ji, and considers modern parenting in My Toxic Baby.

Indeed, the theme of My Toxic Baby is change, with Lee turning the lens on herself as she attempts to purify her new daughter's living environment and connects with other parents similarly committed to shifting notions about what should constitute a healthy child-rearing environment.

And yet, the documentary does not feel like a screed: Lee says that the last thing that she wanted to do was come off as sanctimonious.

"I'm very aware that women are constantly being judged for their 'skills' as mothers," she says, "to the point where it's almost a public sport. I didn't want to contribute to that."

My Toxic Baby airs on Global on Friday night

The other thing that Lee wanted to avoid was a too-conventional documentary format: The glut of PowerPoint-style eco-documentaries in the wake of An Inconvenient Truth have brought the form dangerously close to redundancy.

What separates My Toxic Baby from the herd is its uncommonly intimate, personal dimension — which does not preclude its pointing towards wider implications.

"You might notice, I didn't put any 'talking head' experts in the documentary," says Lee. "At this point of crisis, there are enough sad scientific stats out there pointing to what is becoming increasingly more clear — we are in a chemical war zone. I wanted to focus instead of people who are responding to the crisis. For me as a mother, that is essential — finding hope."

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Escape real life with sci-fi TV

Considering the difficult year we've been through, it's no wonder primetime this fall has taken on a sci-fi tinge, offering series full of escapism through supernatural plots and otherworldly characters.

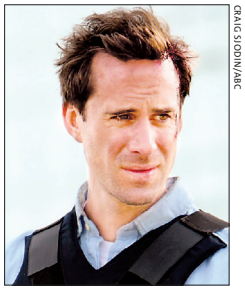
Here is a look at some of the new and returning shows premiering this fall:

FlashForward

Everyone in the world simultaneously blacks out for two minutes and 17 seconds. (So what could be better to help forget all the money you lost when the markets crashed?) In that time, each person catches a glimpse of the future. A team of FBI agents (headed by actors Joseph Fiennes and John Cho) tries to piece together what happened and what's unfolding.

Dollhouse

Despite poor ratings, Eliza Dushku and the other "Actives" — operatives in an ultra-exclusive, illegal escort service who have had their personalities wiped clean, then are imprinted with new personas to fit client wants and needs — are back. Maybe creator Joss Whedon can come up with a way to wipe away our memories from this year.



CRAIG SJODIN/ABC

Actor Joseph Fiennes in a scene from sci-fi series Flash-Forward, which premiered Sept. 24 on ABC.

Smallville

Young Superman "embraces his Kryptonian side." Need a better reason to get lost in Season 9? Clark Kent dons the iconic "S."

Medium

After suffering a stroke and winding up in a coma last season, Allison (Patricia Arquette) wasn't talking to too many ghosts. Maybe the change of scenery — the series moves from NBC to CBS — will help.

Ghost Whisperer

Do you like your supernatural with a dose of Us Weekly? Star Jennifer Love Hewitt sees dead people opposite her boyfriend and castmate Jamie Kennedy, who plays "ghost listener" Eli.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Life is a song for actress after Reba sitcom

For Melissa Peterman, life after Reba is something to sing about. Hopefully, it'll be somebody else doing the singing.

"People tell me that I have the kind of voice that the first time you hear it, you're going to go, 'Arghhh!' and if I continue to sing at you, it starts to get under your skin," she said.

Given that, it's somewhat of a surprise that life, of late, is a song for the comic character actress, 38, who stole scenes on the Reba sitcom as the peabrained but huge-hearted Barbra Jean, the wife of Reba McEntire character's ex-husband.

Early this summer, Peterman debuted as host of CMT's remember-the-lyrics game show, The Singing Bee, which was just renewed for a second season on the country network.

"Everything I've done has led up to this point: the nights I've went out and done karaoke poorly, the nights I've pretended to know lyrics to songs," she joked.

This weekend, she brings that humour to the Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles, as she hosts a Sing-A-Long Sound of Music, where 18,000 attendees will belt out Rodgers and Hammerstein favourites and watch Julie Andrews and company.

"So, you see, I DO have a voice that could sell out (the) Hollywood Bowl!" Peterman said, with tongue firmly in cheek. "And there is not a lot of people that can say that, except everyone else who sang there and sold out. But I'm the only one who doesn't have a record deal."

MATT SAYLES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Actress Melissa Peterman

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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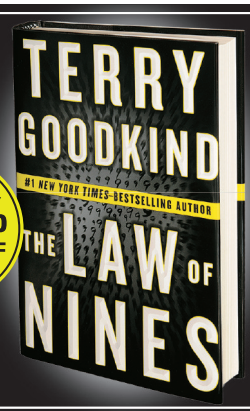

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Back to school for Longoria

Desperate Housewives actress Eva Longoria Parker says she will enrol in a master's program in Chicano studies and political science. She didn't say what university she will attend. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Phillips defends dad

Actress says John was 'a good man' despite incest allegations

Mackenzie Phillips is defending her father John Phillips as "a good man," despite her claims that they had an incestuous affair.

But her stepmother Michelle Phillips says Phillips is lying about the affair and is just trying to cash in on her book.

The 49-year-old former child actress writes in her new book, High on Arrival, that she had a decade-long sexual relationship with her father, and alleges they had sex on the night before she was to get married in 1979 at age 19.

She wrote in her book: "I woke up that night from a blackout to find myself having sex with my own father." John Phillips, who died of heart failure in 2001, was the leader of the 1960s group the Mamas and the Papas.

Phillips, 49, who starred on TV's One Day at a Time, said the sexual relationship with her father lasted a decade and ended when she became pregnant and didn't know who had fathered the child. She had an abortion, for which her father paid.

Interviewed on NBC's Today show Thursday, Phillips said it was "a very permissive time and a very rock 'n' roll world and pretty much anything went." Her father "did the best he could," she said.

Phillips, who said she first tried cocaine at age 11, said her father did drugs with her, taught her to roll joints and injected her with cocaine. Last October, Phillips pleaded guilty in Los Angeles to possessing cocaine and was ordered to complete an 18-month drug treatment program.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Back on Oprah

- Mackenzie Phillips is returning to The Oprah Winfrey show via satellite on Friday. Joining her will be half-sister Chynna, who will be live in the studio, according to usmagazine.com.

METRO NEWS SERVICE

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

Former child actress Mackenzie Phillips alleges she had an incestuous affair with her father, the deceased John Phillips of the Mamas and the Papas, in her new book. Both pictured in this 1981 photo.

Biel to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro

PEOPLE When Jessica Biel, Lupe Fiasco and Isabel Lucas get together in Africa, they'll have nowhere to go but up. The entertainers have signed on to climb the continent's highest peak — Mt. Kilimanjaro — to raise awareness about the need for clean water worldwide. The Summit on the Summit expedition is set for January.

Jessica Biel

Biel, 27, said she was "astonished" to learn that more than a billion people across the globe have no access to clean water.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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metro

FRIDAY

CA	Vu	SC	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
9/25/09	243	317 3 CFCN	etalk	Hollywood	Flashpoint (N)		Ghost Whisperer (N)		Medium (N)		CTV News
	-	- 4 OMNI	The Office	The Simpsons	Omni News: S. Asian Edition		Omni News: Cantonese Edition		Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Metropia
	-	371 5 KXLY	4 News at 6	4 News at 6:30	Entertainment	The Insider (N)	FlashForward (HDTV)		Modern Family	Cougar Town	20/20 (N)
	245	306 6 CBRT	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Ron James	Rick Mercer	CBC News: the fifth estate (N)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	244	338 7 CICT	ET Canada	Entertainment	My Toxic Baby		NUMB3RS "Hangman"		Dollhouse "Vows" (N)		News Hour
primetime	246	- 8 CKAL	Law & Order: SVU		The Jay Leno Show (N)		Model Search		Modern Family	Cougar Town	Your City
	-	372 12 KREM	News	Hollywood	The Doctors (N)		Ghost Whisperer (N)		Medium (N)		NUMB3RS
	-	374 14 KSPS	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer		Wash. Week	McLaughlin	Bill Moyers Journal (N)		NOW on PBS	Being Served	P.O.V.
	-	370 16 KHQ	News (N)	Be-Millionaire	Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel-Fortune	Law & Order (N)		Dateline NBC		Jay Leno Show
	-	373 22 KAYU	The Office	Raymond	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Brothers (N)		Dollhouse "Vows" (N)		News
news	502	390 15 CBC	CBC News: The National		Pedal Power		CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National		Pedal Power
	500	500 29 CNN	Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)				Larry King Live		Cooper 360
	501	391 52 CTV	CTV News Tonight		News	CTV News	News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News
sports	400	400 21 TSN	CFL Football		CFL Football BC Lions at Calgary Stampeders. From McMahon Stadium in Calgary.						SportsCentre
	408	418 27 net	MLB Baseball		Sportsnet Connected		Air Racing		Sportsnet Connected		Ult. Fighter
family	552	543 20 YTV	The Next Star		iCarly	iCarly	*Freedom Writers* ★★★ (2007, Drama) Hilary Swank, Patrick Dempsey.				
	557	541 39 FAM	Zoey 101	Jonas (N)	Sonny Chance	*Roxy Hunter: The Myth of the Mermaid*			(10:02) *Camp Rock* (2008) Joe Jonas.		
cable variety	603	561 25 FOOD	Bobby Flay	Chef Abroad	Diner, Drive-In	Diner, Drive-In	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares		Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Bobby Flay
	615	520 26 A&E	Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Criminal Minds "Legacy"		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Criminal Minds
	617	522 32 SHOW	Trailer Park	Trailer Park	The Outer Limits		Howie Do It	Howie Do It	Kenny-Spenny	Kenny-Spenny	Trailer Park
	520	505 35 DISC	Man vs. Wild "Yukon"		Dark Fellowships: The Vril		Daily Planet		Man vs. Wild "Yukon"		Junk Raiders
	628	584 43 SPIKE	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		NRL Rugby Teams TBA.				Police Chases
	522	516 45 HIST	Go Deep (N)		Battles BC		Cold Blood		Blow Down (HDTV)		Underworld
	-	- 47 AMC	(6) *Ghostbusters* (1984, Comedy)		*Ghostbusters II* ★★ (1989, Comedy) Bill Murray, Dan Aykroyd.						*Ghostbusters*
	581	566 102 MTV	Cribs	Over the Bolts	Hills Wedding	Bitch Is Back	Cribs	Cribs	Cribs	Over the Bolts	Hills Wedding

SATURDAY

CA	Vu	SC	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
9/26/09	243	317 3 CFCN	W-FIVE		Law & Order: SVU		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Flashpoint (DVS)		CTV News
	-	- 4 OMNI	Omni News: Mandarin Edition		Mandarin Mag.	Trendy Zone	*Orz Boyz* (2008, Drama) Chi-wen Hsu, Kuan-yi Lee.				Most Amazing
	-	371 5 KXLY	(6) College Football Iowa at Penn State. (HDTV) (Live)					Explorer TV	Entertainment Tonight		ReGenesis
	245	306 6 CBRT	NHL Preseason Hockey		*Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World* ★★★ (2003, Adventure), Billy Boyd						*Raising Az*
	244	338 7 CICT	The Beat of Life		Project Runway Canada		Movie				News Final (N)
primetime	246	- 8 CKAL	Murdoch Mysteries		Model Search (N)		*A Woman Hunted* (2003, Drama) Alexandra Paul. (DVS)				The City Show
	-	372 12 KREM	News	Scrubs	Grey's Anatomy		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		The Good Wife "Pilot"		48 Hr. Mystery
	-	374 14 KSPS	The Lawrence Welk Show		Jack Benny	Time Goes By	Great Performances (HDTV) (N)		Parks		Soundstage
	-	370 16 KHQ	News (N)	Judge Judy	CSI: NY "Super Men"		Law & Order (HDTV)		Mercy (HDTV)		Law/Ord SVU
	-	373 22 KAYU	House "All In"		Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Cops (N)	Cops	America's Most Wanted		News
news	502	390 15 CBC	National	Mansbridge	Rise Up - Canadian Pop Music		National	At Issue	National	Mansbridge	Rise Up
	500	500 29 CNN	Larry King Live		Newsroom		Campbell Brown		Larry King Live		Newsroom
	501	391 52 CTV	CTV News Weekend		CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News
sports	400	400 21 TSN	CFL Football Toronto Argonauts at Winnipeg Blue Bombers. (HDTV) (Live)						SportsCentre	2009 World Series of Poker	
	408	418 27 net	(6) MLB Baseball St. Louis Cardinals at Colorado Rockies.				Week-Baseball	World Sport	Top 10-Olympic Moments		Sportsnet Con.
family	552	543 20 YTV	Kid vs. Kat	League-Evil	Prank Patrol	Prank Patrol	Funniest Home Videos		Smallville		Survive This
	557	541 39 FAM	(6:18) *Finding Nemo* (2003)		Mickey Mouse	Life Derek	Zack & Cody	Han. Montana	*City Slickers II: The Legend of Curly's Gold*		
cable variety	603	561 25 FOOD	Chopped		Top Chef: Las Vegas		Hell's Kitchen		Dear Food Network		Chopped
	615	520 26 A&E	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		The Sopranos		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami
	617	522 32 SHOW	(5) *Casino Royale*		The Guard (HDTV)		*Legacy of Fear* (2006, Suspense) (HDTV) Teri Polo.				*Casino Royale*
	520	505 35 DISC	Junk Raiders		Destroyed	Destroyed	Criss Angel Mindfreak		Junk Raiders		Destroyed
	628	584 43 SPIKE	(6) *Road House* ★★ (1989)		Disorderly Conduct: Video		Disorderly Conduct: Video		Disorderly Conduct: Video		Disorderly
	522	516 45 HIST	Re-Inventors	Re-Inventors	Ultimate Engineering		Cities of the Underworld		*G.I. Jane* ★★★ (1997, Drama)		
	-	- 47 AMC	(6) *Wyatt Earp* ★★ (1994, Biography) Kevin Costner, Dennis Quaid, Gene Hackman.								*Butch Cassidy-Sundance Kid*
	581	566 102 MTV	MTV Live	Bitch Is Back	Cribs	Cribs	Cribs	Cribs	Made		MTV Live

SUNDAY

CA	Vu	SC	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
9/27/09	243	317 3 CFCN	Desperate Housewives		Cold Case (N)		The Amazing Race 15 Twelve teams begin the race. (N)				CTV News
	-	- 4 OMNI	Without a Trace		Aaram	Toudi Sehat	Bollywood Boulevard (DVS)		So Far From Home		TBA
	-	371 5 KXLY	News	The Badge	Extreme Makeover: Home		Extreme Makeover: Home		Desperate Housewives		Brothers
	245	306 6 CBRT	*Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* ★★★ (2007, Fantasy) Daniel Radcliffe.						CBC News: The National		
	244	338 7 CICT	16:9 Picture	Prod. Parker	Brothers & Sisters (N)		The Simpsons	Cleveland Sh	Family Guy (N)	American Dad	News Final (N)
primetime	246	- 8 CKAL	Murdoch Mysteries		Extreme Makeover: Home		Extreme Makeover: Home		Conviction Kitchen		Most Amazing
	-	372 12 KREM	KREM 2 News at 6 (N)		60 Minutes (N)		The Amazing Race 15 Twelve teams begin the race. (N)				Cold Case (N)
	-	374 14 KSPS	Lark Rise to Candleford		Nature (DVS)		The National Parks: America's Best Idea (DVS)				National Parks
	-	370 16 KHQ	(6:15) NFL Football Indianapolis Colts at Arizona Cardinals.					News	CSI: Miami "Deviant"		CSI: NY
	-	373 22 KAYU	House "All In"		Brothers (HDTV)		The Simpsons	Cleveland Sh	Family Guy (N)	American Dad	News
news	502	390 15 CBC	CBC News: The National		Link (N)		Nazi King		CBC News: The National		Link
	500	500 29 CNN	Larry King Live		Newsroom		State of the Union		Larry King Live		State of Union
	501	391 52 CTV	CTV News Weekend		CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News
sports	400	400 21 TSN	(6:15) NFL Football Indianapolis Colts at Arizona Cardinals.					SportsCentre		E:60	
	408	418 27 net	UFC Fight Night				Sportsnet Connected (HDTV)		Sportsnet Connected (HDTV)		PartyPoker.net
family	552	543 20 YTV	The Next Star		The Next Star "Finale" (Live)			Indie	In Real Life		Survive This
	557	541 39 FAM	(7:01) Jonas	Overruled! (N)	Suite Life	Zoey 101	Zack & Cody	Han. Montana	*Free Willy* ★★★ (1993, Drama), Lori Petty		
cable variety	603	561 25 FOOD	Iron Chef America		Dinner: Impossible		Restaurant Makeover		Get on Plate	Food Detective	Iron Chef Am.
	615	520 26 A&E	Criminal Minds "Doubt"		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		CSI: Miami "Burned"		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Criminal Minds
	617	522 32 SHOW	NCIS "Capitol Offense"		ReGenesis "Prions"		*The Haunting of Sorority Row* (2007, Drama), Kailin See				Weeds
	520	505 35 DISC	Dino Lab II (N)		MythBusters (N)		Anthony Bourdain		Dinosaurs Return to Life		Dino Lab II
	628	584 43 SPIKE	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		(9:14) CSI: Crime Scene Investigation		MANswers	MANswers	MANswers
	522	516 45 HIST	Ice Road Truckers		Ancient Discoveries		Submarines in Enemy Depths		*Crimson Tide* ★★★ (1995, Suspense)		
	-	- 47 AMC	(5) *GoodFellas* (1990)		Mad Men (N)		(9:02) Mad Men		(10:03) Breaking Bad		Mad Men
	581	566 102 MTV	Nitro Circus	Over the Bolts	Over the Bolts	Pranked	Bitch Is Back	MTV News	Fantasy Fact.	Beatdown	Over the Bolts

Dane files lawsuit
Eric Dane and Rebecca Gayheart have filed a lawsuit against Gawker.com, claiming the website's bosses unlawfully posted a threesome video featuring them online, according to TMZ.com. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Going Out

Mix of Six

Art show MILK
When: Saturday
Where: Per.spec.tive Gallery (118 – 1111 6 Ave SW)

Local sculptor Melanie Bryson will auction off 10 unique cast torsos at Per.spec.tive Gallery to raise money for Keep a Breast Canada. Tickets for the event are available at the gallery.

International Wine & Cheese Social
When: Friday, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Where: Crowfoot Liquor Store

Tickets are $45, includes a silent auction for the Nurture Yourself Empowerment Program.

Calgary International Film Festival
When: On until Oct. 4.
Where: Various venues – tickets at the theatre

If you're looking for the latest in film, hit the 10th annual Calgary International Film Festival. For more information on what's playing, go to calgaryfilm.com

Light the Night
When: Saturday, 5 p.m.
Where: Will begin at Eau Claire Market Cinemas

Five-kilometre walk in support of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Will include food, music, and family activities. For more information, visit lightthenight.ca/ab.

Calgary Architecture and Design Week Gala
When: Saturday, 6 to 10 p.m.
Where: The Water Centre: 625 – 25 Ave SE

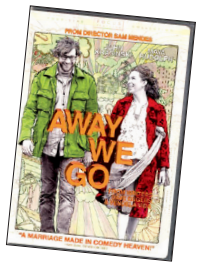
The latest in local food, fashion, photography, furniture and design. Tickets $10/ $15 at the door. Call 403-650-5609.

Multi Faith Walk to End Family Violence
When: Sunday, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Where: Eau Claire market

For more information, call 403-283-3013 ext. 241.

Metro's 7th Heaven: Metro taps what's hot right now

1 Away We Go
DVD Sam Mendes' latest effort was too low-key for summer blockbuster season but this sweet little film may be more endearing on your home theatre. Starring John Krasinski (of The Office) and Maya Rudolph, the film centres around a couple's search for the perfect place to raise their kids.



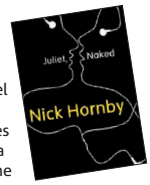
2 FlashForward
TV It may sound like any other sci-fi series but here's the Canuck twist — the ABC drama is based on celebrated Mississauga, Ont., author Robert J. Sawyer's novel of the same name. FlashForward, which premiered yesterday, stars Joseph Fiennes as FBI agent Mark Benford, a man who finds himself desperately trying to piece together the cause of a mysterious global event that makes everyone pass out for two minutes and 17 seconds.

3 Margaret Atwood
AUTHOR She may be 70 but she shows no signs of stopping. The doyenne of Canadian fiction is not only picking up rave reviews for her new novel The Year of the Flood, but also made it to the Giller Prize long list. Her inventiveness marks the book tour too — she has created a short musical play based on the novel to be performed in each city she visits.

4 Xavier Dolan
DIRECTOR Roll over, Atom Egoyan. The new poster boy of Canadian cinema is only 20 years old, and his wrenching family drama I Killed My Mother has been chosen as the nation's official entry for the Oscars.

5 The Boy Who Knew Too Much: Mika
ALBUM He conquered the pop world three years back with his debut Life in Cartoon Motion. Now the British singer is ready to keep the crown with another edition of his Elton John-meets-Freddy Mercury over-the-top melodies. The album's first single We Are Golden is proof enough that Mika's here to stay.

6 Juliet, Naked: Nick Hornby
BOOK Surprise, surprise! The preeminent "lad lit" author's new novel is not about a boy, but about a girl. Thirtysomething museum curator Annie strikes up an online relationship with Tucker Crowe, a reclusive American singer-songwriter who's the stuff of myths. An essential Hornby read.



7 It Might Get Loud
FILM If you believe in guitar gods, consider your prayers answered. Master axemen Jimmy Page, The Edge and Jack White gather around to exchange notes on how they create their fretboard magic. It's a treat to watch these legends explain the chemistry behind some of rock's best-loved songs. Enjoy without earplugs.

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06 Honda Ridgeline
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TD Bank Financial Group

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October 23, 2009
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The little movie that could
Dirty Dancing made Patrick Swayze a superstar but when he first read the script, he found it a little clean. The actor, who died Sept. 14 of cancer, writes in his memoir, "It seemed fluffy — nothing more than a summer-camp movie." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Not just Montana: The maturing Miley Cyrus

Miley Cyrus doesn't need to look at the music charts to know that her songs are making a connection with the fans — all she has to do is tweet.

"I'm stoked that people have been so supportive," she says of her latest project, the EP The Time of Our Lives. "On my Twitter, (I get) so many replies like 'This song inspires me' and 'This inspires me.' ... One of the reasons why I love that site is being able to see what people are saying about the record."

Of course, having a best-selling record is good reassurance too — the EP is near the top of the charts and her song The Climb has been No. 1 on Billboard's adult contemporary chart for weeks.

It's just another example of the maturing career of the 16-year-old Miley. While she's still known to millions as the star of the Disney phenomenon Hannah Montana, she's not just a teen queen anymore. VH1 crowned her as one of their "Divas," she's in an upcoming movie playing a defiant teen and she's calling the shots on her Wonder World tour.

Miley recently talked to The Associated Press about her new show, growing up and what being a diva means to her.

Q Describe the new album The Time of Our Lives.

A It is a transitioning album. ... Everything is like a stepping stone. And that was really to introduce people to what I want my next record to sound like and with time I will be able to do that a little more and timing is just everything. So it is really about us working our way up to being able to do the music you really love.

Q A lot of your music you write yourself. Do you ever write a song and go, "Oh my God, wait, that is too personal, I don't want to put that out?"

A Yes, sometimes I write songs just to write them. I have written thousands of songs that are just for me. I will even play them for my friends, and they will say, "Will that be on your next record?" and I'll say, "No, that was just for me. That was just for my peace of mind." And I think that is important to do that. Not always writing a song and be like, "Oh, that is going to be on a record." If it sounds great and it is something that you think goes along with the album that you are putting together, that is awesome. If not then it's cool. It doesn't matter.

Q What would you say is the most diva like thing about you?

A This tour is the most diva thing. Because when I got here, it was like, "OK, we are not messing around, this thing is going to be like full out. We are going to get everything, it's going to continue to blow people's minds." And everyone was like, "Alright Miley is stepping it up." And I was like, "Yeah, it is my tour." The first time I was actually going out, no Hannah Montana, none of that. Just my own style.

Q You are going to be in the film The Last Song, out next spring. Is it a departure from your Hannah character?

A I really do get to do a little bit of everything. It is not like getting away from it at all, it is just showing more of a side that I want to show. I love doing Hannah Montana, but I want to continue doing things that are a little bit more darker roles. That is kind of who I am and where I find most of my inspiration in movies like that.

Q Now that you are getting older, there is more talk of you possibly retiring the Hannah Montana character.

A I thought about retiring when I was like 15. Just kidding. I would have retired like twelve years ago.

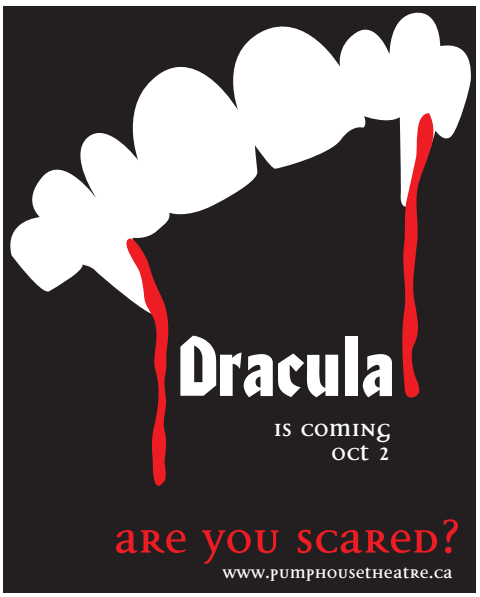
Q When that day does come, obviously it will be very sad, but will it also a little bit of a relief?

A I want to continue to do everything I can. My dad always says, "If you ain't having fun, it ain't working." And so when I stop having fun, I'll just quit everything altogether. But, I'm having fun. ... I think I will forever do that, if I have the people that I'm around still around me. They make me happy, and the people that I work with I really love. ... I will be able to tour the rest of my life if I am having fun.

Q You have mentioned that you have made a few mistakes. What would you say was your biggest and what was the most exaggerated one?

A I think everything I do is exaggerated a lot. I think that no matter what, I think it is all about respect. People forget that when you are in the public eye, people forget you still have to respect people and you still have to (respect) their privacy. And also respect my family and trust the fact that my parents are raising me just like everyone else is raising their kids. They are doing it the way they want to. It is not for the media or for any one else to judge how they should or should not raise me.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Simon to export The X Factor?
Looks like Simon Cowell is bringing Britain's The X Factor to the U.S. — and according to The Hollywood Reporter, he's trying to negotiate a $50 million a cycle salary. POPEATER.COM

Clive's back with the Boys

When Clive Owen signed on as the lead in The Boys Are Back, about a journalist forced to cope with single parenthood after his wife dies, he didn't rush out to meet the man whose memoir inspired the film — Simon Carr.

STUART RAMSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Clive Owen, seen here at the premiere of The Boys are Back, plays a journalist raising his two sons alone after his wife dies.

"I felt it was better to go in and interpret it from my own thing. I thought it would be better to go in clean," Owen said at the Toronto International Film Festival, where the drama screened.

The Boys Are Back — opening in Toronto this Friday, and in Vancouver and Montreal on Oct. 2 — stars Owen as Joe, a sports writer shellshocked when his wife dies of cancer and he becomes a single parent to their six-year-old son (Nicholas McAnulty). Things become even more complicated when his teenage son from a previous marriage (George MacKay) comes to visit.

Owen said it wasn't until one of the last days of shooting that Carr brought his two boys — now aged 19 and 26 — to the set.

"The guy whose life we'd just been portraying ... was suddenly there," said Owen, "and seeing the two boys meet the two (actor) boys was quite striking as well because they were obviously more grown up now but they had similar energies."

Owen also brought his two children to the set in South Australia, where most of the film was shot. For director Scott Hicks, it was his first time making a movie in his home state of South Australia since 1996's Shine.

"It had a very family feel about it, the way we were putting it together, and in a subtle way those things can rub off onto a film," Owen said.

But don't confuse it for sentimentality — Owen wanted to reflect the book's pragmatic nature. "I didn't want the film to be ... overwrought," he said. "I wanted it to push the more difficult tones because any parent knows that the whole bringing up kids is a constant, changing negotiation."

"The whole bringing up kids is a constant, changing negotiation."
Clive Owen

What some parents might not relate to, Owen acknowledged, is the freedom his character bestows upon his children as part of his newfound "free range parenting" style and "Just Say Yes" mantra.

In particular, Owen said, is a scene in which his character drives a jeep along a beach while his son rides on the hood.

"The film is an examination of a guy trying to doing it on his own. It's very much a guy's perspective and a mother would never do that," Owen said.

In the end of both the memoir and the movie, the father's liberal parenting proves to be "fallible," he noted.

"I believe in the notion that maybe we're a little too quick to say 'no' to things and we're not sort of very available and open, but that kind of winging it ultimately is going to collapse. You can't carry on like that." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Circle of Life lands at U.S. museum

Lion King gives costumes to Smithsonian

Producers of The Lion King musical are donating two of the Broadway show's elaborate costume pieces to the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History.

Yesterday museum officials accepted Simba's mask and the costume for tribal shaman and show narrator Rafiki to be placed in the entertainment history collection. They'll be in rare company among about 50 objects from Broadway, including costumes from Hello, Dolly!, Fiddler on the Roof, Rent and Cats.

"We'll have Rafiki next to Dolly Levi. That's a big thing," said a giddy Thomas Schumacher, the show's producer.

"The Rafiki costume really speaks to the design and soul of the show," he said. "This is a completely original creation that doesn't look like anything else. That's kind of thrilling."

"We'll have Rafiki next to Dolly Levi. That's a big thing."
Lion King producer Thomas Schumacher

Designer Julie Taymor created the costumes, puppetry and scenic design that brought the 1994 animated Disney movie to life on stage in 1997.

The hit show how now been seen by 50 million people worldwide — the first American musical to hit that milestone and only the fourth in theatre history.

The show, featuring the music of Elton John and Tim Rice, including the Academy Award-winning Can You Feel the Love Tonight, has been presented in 13 different countries.

Museum curator Dwight Blocker Bowers said the show represents an evolution in Broadway design, one reason why he sought out the Lion King pieces. It also has an intergenerational appeal, which he said is rare because musical tastes tend to vary by age group.

"The musical is an indigenous American art form in terms of how we know it," Blocker Bowers said. "The Lion King," he said, "took the musical to areas it had never embraced before," bringing animals to life with live puppetry and groundbreaking costumes.

The museum hopes to display the objects in 2010.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Fat lady sings for Allen

After two smash albums, Lily Allen is putting her music career on ice indefinitely, she admits on her blog. "Just so you know, I have not renegotiated my record contract and have no plans to make another record," Allen writes. METRO WORLD NEWS

Celebrity Buzz

Smiley Miley pays up for her privacy

BIG SPENDER Miley Cyrus had a restaurant closed so she and 100 friends could party together, female-first.co.uk reports.

The Hannah Montana star wanted to celebrate her sold-out concert at Los Angeles Staples Center on Tuesday night by dining at the newly-opened eatery Katsuya.

The 16-year-old star told bosses she wanted privacy "no matter the cost" so booked out the entire restaurant.

Cyrus was dressed in an open back, black mini-dress and high black boots as she sipped on a special Katsuya drink. A source added to website RadarOnline: "She was in great spirits and danced almost the whole night."

Cyrus was keen to keep her party private as she recently claimed her life is being ruined by the paparazzi. She wrote on her Twitter page: "Being a paparazzi is the most DISGUSTING job imaginable.

"Being followed around by creepy photographers is NOT in the job description! YOU try being stuck inside cuz creepers are waiting for u (sic)." METRO WORLD NEWS

Posh says quit weight bugging

HEALTH Victoria Beckham wants everyone to stop obsessing over how thin she is. "I am fine — happy and healthy," she tells the Daily Mirror.

"It's irresponsible when people obsess about my shape and size.

"I appreciate there are young girls and women who look at me as a role model and it is simply untrue to say I do not eat and I am unhealthy." METRO WORLD NEWS

Pitt's fixer upper

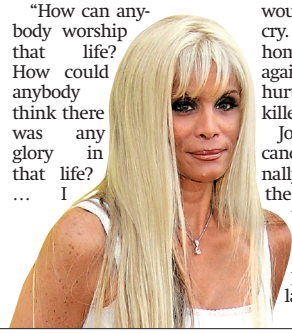
GOBS OF MONEY Brad Pitt has found a new project: Rebuilding the small airport near he and Angelina Jolie's French estate. Sources tell Page Six that Pitt is looking for a way for his large family to avoid the paparazzi.

"One thing he loves about the estate is the privacy it affords," a source says. "Nobody can get near it. So with Angelina completing her pilot's licence, their own airstrip would give them total freedom to come and go." METRO WORLD NEWS

Gotti a murderer: Daughter

TEFLON DAUGHTER Onetime reality show star Victoria Gotti is finally admitting that her father, the former head of the Gambino crime family, was behind some of the most notorious murders in recent New York history, people.com reports.

"I loved the man … but I loathed the life, his lifestyle," Gotti, 46, tells the CBS newsmagazine 48 Hours Mystery in an episode to be aired Saturday.



"How can anybody worship that life? How could anybody think there was any glory in that life? … I would lie awake nights and cry. 'Is my dad gonna come home? Is he gonna go to jail again? … Is he going to get hurt? Is he gonna get killed?'"

John Gotti, who died of cancer in prison in 2002, finally lost his nickname as the Teflon Don in 1992, when he was convicted of 13 murders, including the slaying of his predecessor, Paul Castellano, outside a New York steakhouse.

But Gotti had been fingered as the mastermind behind many more, such as the 1980 disappearance and apparent murder of a neighbour who accidentally ran over and killed Gotti's 12-year-old son Frank.

It was in that latter case that Victoria claims she demanded that her father exact "justice," according to 48 Hours Mystery. METRO WORLD NEWS

No happy endings for Drew Barrymore

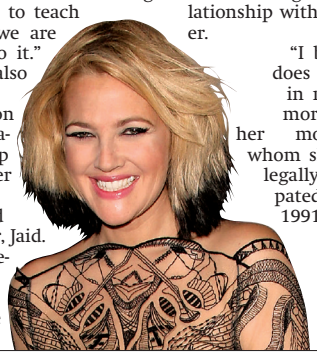
SEX TAKES BACKSEAT Justin Long, take note. "Sexual love is secondary to me right now," Drew Barrymore says in a new Parade magazine interview. "I've spent a lot of time in my life dedicating myself to love or the pursuit of love or the understanding of love. But for the last few years, my life just hasn't been about that for me."

The twice-married star, 34, adds that she's "stopped believing in happy endings," usmagazine.com reports.

"I've started believing in good days," she says. "At the end of my movie, there's honesty. There's truth. There's peace. What tomorrow will bring is still in question. There is a joy that's earned by failure or triumph. All those things add up to teach us, if we are open to it."

She also sheds light on her relationship with her estranged mother, Jaid. "I believe she will see the film," she tells Parade, referring to her directorial debut, Whip It. The dramedy, starring Ellen Page, centers on a girl's rocky relationship with her mother.

"I believe she does feel pride in me," Barrymore says of her mother, to whom she became legally emancipated from in 1991. METRO WORLD NEWS



Celebrity tweets

Yoko Ono gets some perspective, Joel McHale wants to improve American football, Courtney Love gets the wrong kind of attention and Pee-wee Herman discovers Twitter.

- @yokoono The sky is not only above our heads. It extends all the way down to earth. When we raise a foot from the ground, we are walking in the sky.
- @joelmchale Football should get rid of the extra point. Or at least move it back.
- @courtneylover79 you know your in trouble when the Secret Service have a CONFERENCE about your smoking in the bathroom at a film preem.
- @peeweeherman Pee-wee Herman is a trending topic? I know I am but what are you? METRO WORLD NEWS

Jennifer shed tears for Brad?

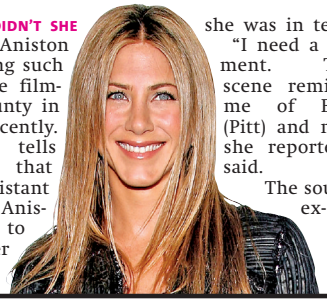
DID SHE OR DIDN'T SHE Jennifer Aniston wasn't having such a great time filming The Bounty in New York recently.

A source tells Page Six that when an assistant arrived at Aniston's trailer to retrieve her for a scene, she was in tears.

"I need a moment. This scene reminds me of Brad (Pitt) and me," she reportedly said.

The source explains: "While she enjoyed flirting with Gerard (Butler) on set and put a brave face on every day, privately she is still very fragile."

But Aniston's representative calls the story about her crying in her trailer "ridiculous. It never happened." METRO WORLD NEWS



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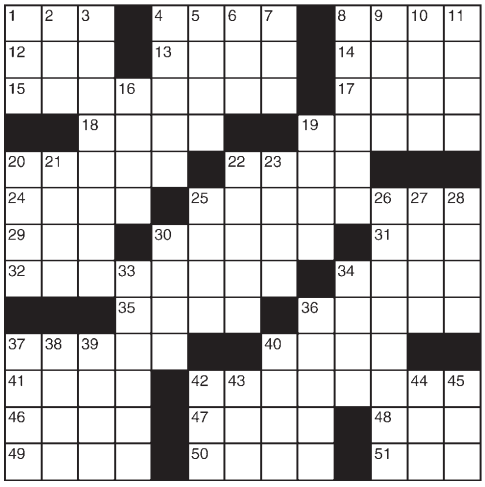

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

			4			9		
8	6						2	
		4			5		3	
	2	8	9	7			5	
5								9
	4			8	1	3	6	
	5		6			1		
	9						7	3
		7			3			

ACROSS

1 Picks out of a lineup
4 Ship's front
8 Wild party
12 Plaything
13 Green land
14 Curved molding
15 "Wow!"
17 Traditional tales
18 Versifier
19 Constitutional
20 Orated
22 Overcast
24 Ponder
25 "Wow!"
29 Swiss canton
30 Huffs and puffs
31 Born
32 "Wow!"
34 Unescorted
35 Unpaid bill
36 Illinois city
37 Bake eggs
40 Perry Mason portrayer
41 Mexican entree
42 "Wow!"
46 Detail
47 Squirrels' hangouts
48 "That's funny!" to a texter
49 Cincinnati team
50 Genealogy chart
51 Sweet potato

DOWN

1 Judge Lance
2 Homer's interjection
3 Formal discussions
4 Small flycatcher
5 Laugh-a-minute
6 Bobby of hockey
7 Become one
8 Anne who married Henry VIII
9 More than enthusiastic
10 Antitoxins
11 Command to Fido
16 Oxen's binder
19 Young blokes
20 Too confident
21 Engine noise
22 Leave
23 Tiers
25 Amorphous mass
26 In toto
27 Burn somewhat
28 Lily variety
30 Coffin support
33 File holders
34 Ganges wrap
36 Talk a blue streak?
37 Use a teaspoon
38 Loathe
39 On the rocks
40 Prepare a casserole
42 Braille component
43 Anvil's site
44 Extinct New Zealander
45 Shade provider

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

C	H	A	D		I	R	K		R	I	C	O		
L	E	V	I		M	O	I		A	C	I	D		
E	R	O	S		P	E	T		D	E	A	D		
F	O	N	D	U	E		C	L	A	W				
			A	L	L	T	H	E	R	A	G	E		
P	O	S	I	T		H	E	N		T	A	D		
I	V	A	N		P	U	N		L	E	W	D		
T	A	I		A	R	M		P	E	R	K	Y		
A	L	L	T	H	E	B	E	S	T					
		B	E	A	T		R	I	T	U	A	L		
O	B	O	E		Z	O	O		I	S	L	E		
L	O	A	N		E	N	D		N	E	T	S		
D	O	T	S		L	E	E		G	R	A	S		

3	2	1	9	7	5	8	4	6
9	8	4	2	6	3	7	1	5
6	5	7	8	4	1	3	2	9
4	1	5	6	8	7	9	3	2
2	3	8	1	5	9	6	7	4
7	9	6	3	2	4	5	8	1
5	4	3	7	9	2	1	6	8
8	7	2	5	1	6	4	9	3
1	6	9	4	3	8	2	5	7

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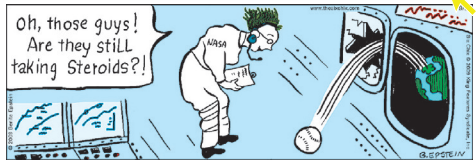

Metro Recipe of the Day

Herb-Coated Cod

INGREDIENTS:
1/4 cup (50 mL) butter, melted
2/3 cup (150 mL) crushed crackers
2 tbsp (25 mL) grated Parmesan cheese
1/2 tsp (2 mL) dried oregano
1/2 tsp (2 mL) dried basil
1/4 tsp (1 mL) garlic powder
1 lb (500 g) cod fillets

METHOD:
1. Place butter in shallow bowl. In another bowl, combine crackers, cheese and seasonings. Dip fillets in butter, then coat with crumbs.
2. Place in greased 13-in. x 9-in. x 2-in. (33 cm x 23 cm x 5 cm) baking dish. Bake, uncovered, at 400°F (200°C) 15-20 minutes or until fish flakes easily with fork.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
There is no point making a big fuss if something small goes wrong today. Strive to stay calm and don't get annoyed over trivial matters.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Don't give too much away today, not even if you are bursting with good ideas. If you say too much, you may find your ideas are rejected or stolen.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
If someone is insensitive enough to point out your failings you might like to remind them of all the times in the past when they goofed.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Whatever limits you come up against you must remind yourself that they don't really exist.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
Maybe you have realized that the goals you set yourself are going to take a lot more time and a lot more effort than you initially supposed.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Mercury, your ruler, moving retrograde warns that some of your ideas are half-formed at best and could cause problems if you take them too seriously.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Both at home and at work, but especially at work, you are advised to look out for Number One today, because if you don't no one else will.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
What a Scorpio wants, a Scorpio usually finds a way to get, and what you get over the next 24 hours will cheer you up no end.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
You may be suspicious of a person you work or do business with, but why? Chances are they have done nothing to cause you serious misgivings.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
Negative comments are likely today, and it may be you who is on the receiving end. Fortunately, you know your own worth.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
Someone in a position of authority is watching you closely and hoping you do something wrong so they can make an example of you.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
With mind planet Mercury still moving retrograde there is a danger you will either be too logical for your own good or abandon logic altogether.

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